Desierto orders Lacson probed for bugging

Story on Page A2

'DI NA AKO P'WEDENG MAKOPYA?

US firm offers to clone-proof celebrities

SAN FRANCISCO—Pop stars, presidents and other people worried about running into clones of themselves can now copyright their DNA codes to prevent

US/ A6

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2001 ★★ 74 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 257 ₱15

'We were never close,' says Erap

"A HIGH-ROLLER down on his luck and under the control of Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya."

This was how ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, described their latest accuser, Danny Devnani.

For his part, Sen. Panfilo Lacson denied knowing the Indian national who has come out

WE/ A16

Erap pal does a Chavit

Witness eclipses Corpus, Mawanay

By Armand N. Nocum

THEY would meet at exclusive nightclubs like Lexus or 24-hour eateries like Whistle Stop or in the membership club he managed. Over dinner, businessman Charlie "Atong" Ang and Kuratong Baleleng leader Renato Parohinog would openly talk about kidnapping operations in his presence.

Appearing as military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus' surprise witness, 43-year-old Danny Devnani said former President Joseph Estrada, incumbent Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada were involved with Ang and Parohinog in large-scale criminal activities such as kidnapping for ransom and drug trafficking.

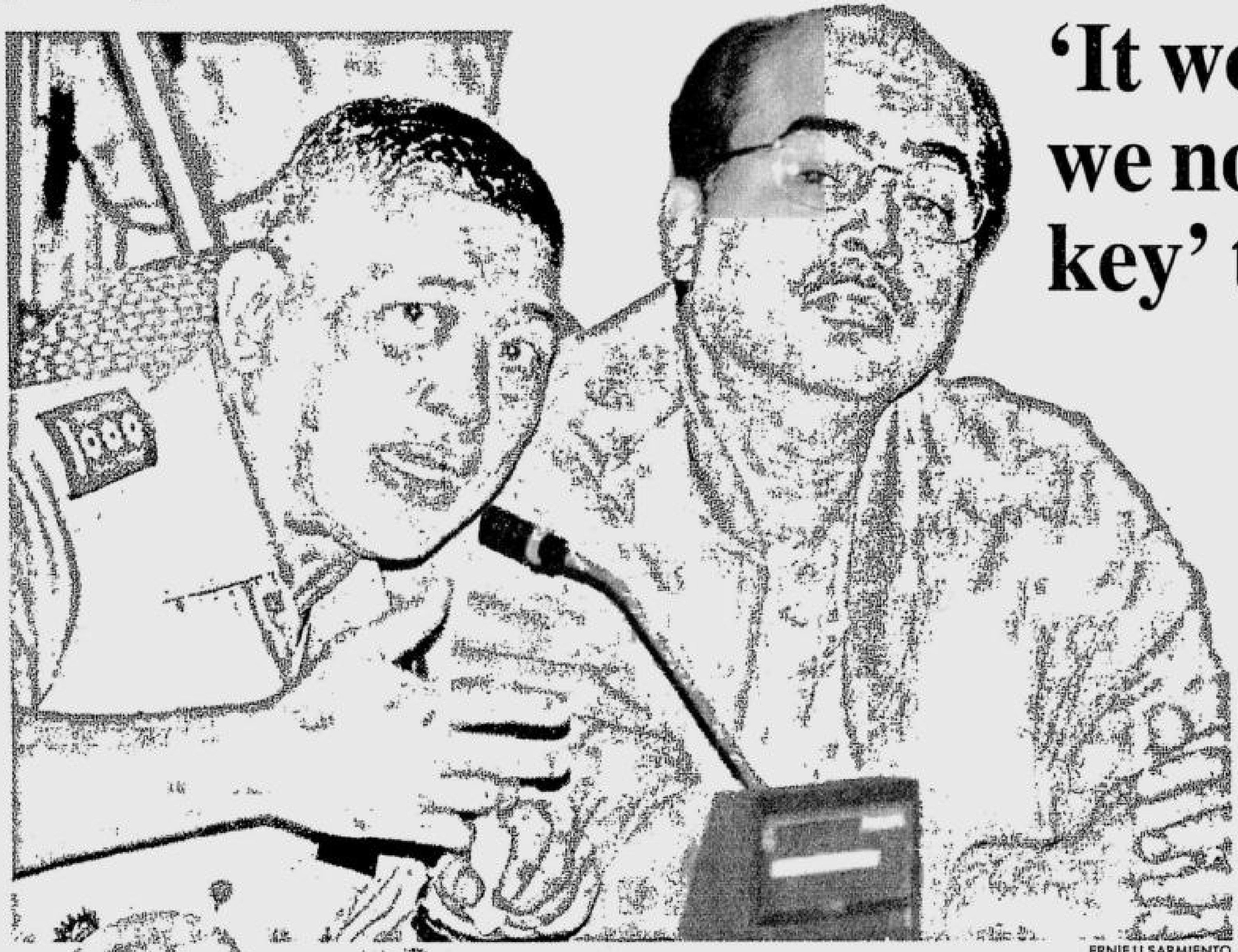
Devnani, an Indian national residing permanently in the Philippines, said he had personal knowledge of their involvement in the illegal activities of the Kuratong Baleleng; the "Edgar Bentain disappearance," and high-stakes gambling in casinos.

Devnani presented himself as a member of former President Joseph Estrada's inner circle. Devnani referred to the International Business Club, the new name of Club 419 on Wilson Street in Greenhills, San Juan, as "my club." Under questioning by Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, he clarified that it was Estrada and Ang who put his name forward as club owner. But the club is owned by Estrada, he said.

"I am here to testify about how these evil people work in our society," Devnani said at the resumption of the joint Senate hearing of the committees on public order and illegal drugs and national security and defense. In his three-page handwritten opening statement, he had written "devils," which he then crossed out and replaced with "these evil people."

Devnani identified the other members of the group as policeman Edwardo Villanueva, aka Edy Boy; Kuratong Baleleng No. 2 Jovel Arnan; Quinting Llorente, alias "Totoy;" and Col. Carding Dapat of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police. Arnan, he said, was killed by Ang's men in 1997.

ERAP/ A7



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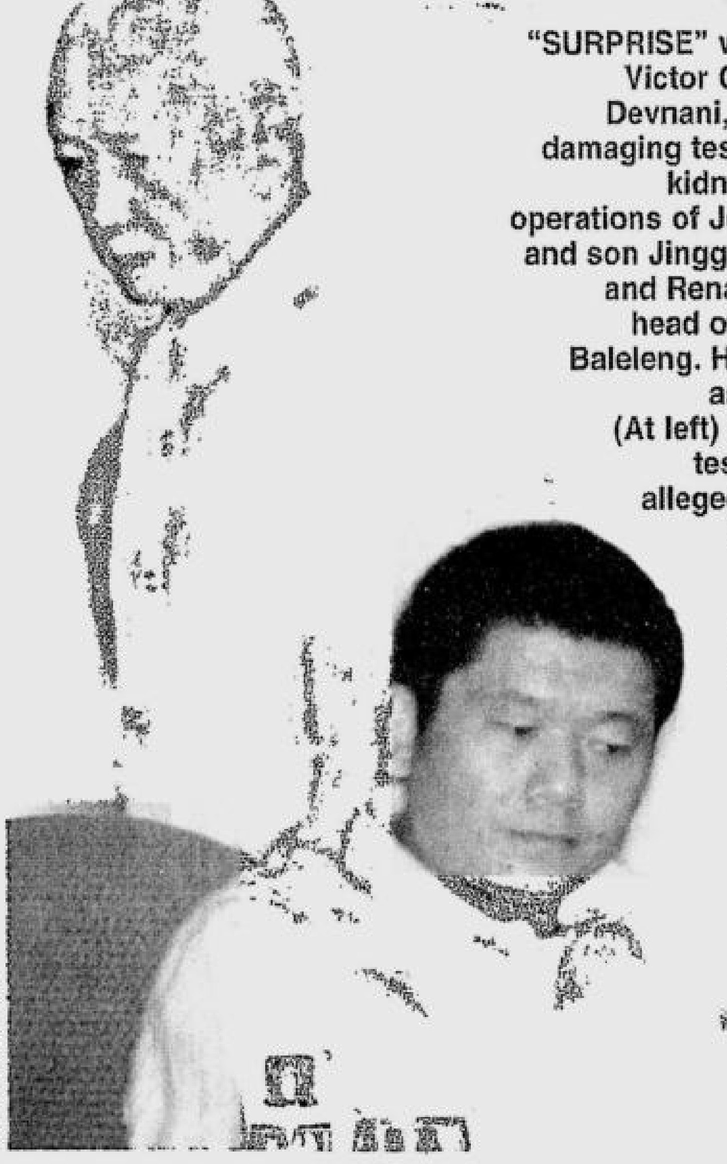

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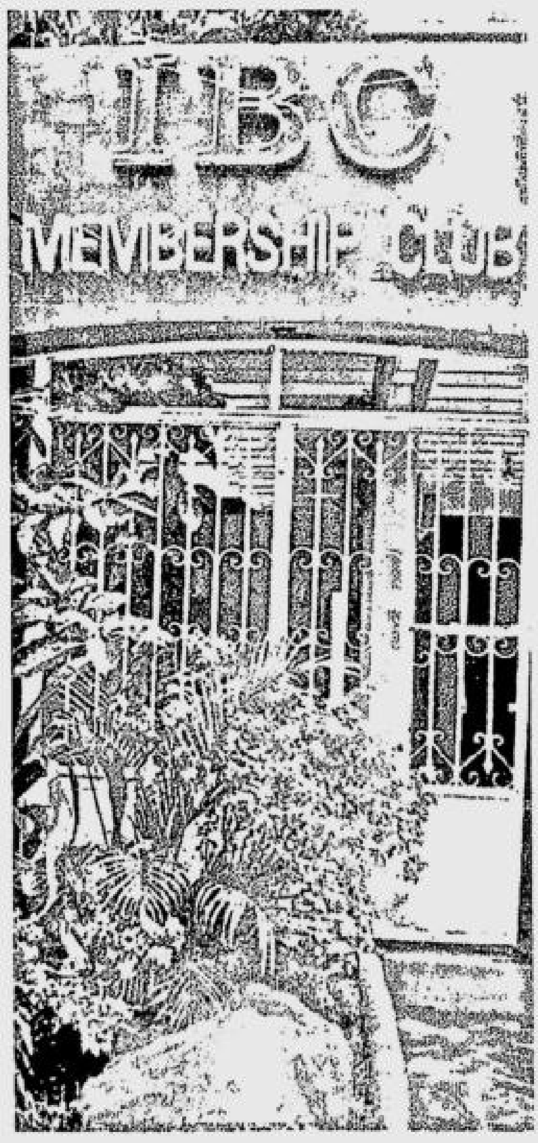

ERIK ARAZAS

"SURPRISE" witness of Col. Victor Corpus, Danny Devnani, (above) gives damaging testimony on the kidnap-for-ransom operations of Joseph Estrada and son Jinggoy, Atong Ang and Renato Parohinog, head of the Kuratong Baleleng. He tags Lacson as the "brains." (At left) corroborrative testimony on the alleged drug links of Lacson friend, Kim Wong, is provided by former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim. (At right) the scene of kidnapping conspiracies in Greenhills, San Juan, according to Devnani.

'It would seem we now have key' to Ping case

By Christine Herrera and Christine Avendaño

"IT WOULD seem we now have the key," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon declared after the senators held an executive session at the end of the day of explosive allegations *(Stories on this page)* **against Sen. Panfilo Lacson during more than seven hours of hearing at the Senate yesterday.**

"They are good starting points for further verification. They will be further verified," added Minority Floor Leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel in reference to documents submitted by the National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco during the hour-long, closed-door session.

The documents presented included the confirmation by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of "more than two dollar bank accounts in the name of Lacson," a Senate source present at the executive session told the Inquirer.

The source did not disclose the total amount of deposits and the banks where they were deposited.

Apart from the Lacson accounts, Wycoco also submitted dollar accounts of Lacson's wife, Alice, which contained a "large balance," according to the Inquirer source.

The Inquirer had reported last week the findings of the FBI that Alice Lacson has four savings and checking accounts with a "large balance" but that no accounts were found in the

IT/ A16

FBI confirmed Ping account, says Wycoco

By Armand N. Nocum and Juliet L. Javellana

IN A meeting with Filipino officials at the Manila Hotel, an agent of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) purportedly confirmed that Sen. Panfilo Lacson held a bank account in California as recently as last month.

The disclosure was made by National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, as he provided one of the highlights of yesterday's Senate hearing.

Days after the meeting, the agent reported that the latest movement in the account was in July this year, the NBI chief said, adding that the American did not specify whether the transaction was a deposit or withdrawal.

FBI/ A17

Wong confronts 'Dirty Harry'

By Christine Avendaño and Dona Pazzibugan

ALLEGED drug lord Kim Wong yesterday acknowledged that he knew missing Chinese interpreter Angelito Sy, but denied having anything to do with the latter's disappearance.

Wong appeared at the resumption of the Senate hearing on allegations that Sen. Panfilo Lacson was engaged in drug trafficking, money laundering, and kidnapping for ransom.

Former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who also testified at yesterday's hearing, had earlier implicated Wong, a businessman-friend of Lacson's, in Sy's disappearance on May 12 last year.

But Lim's testimony showed that he had no personal knowledge of the disappearance because he based his allegations on what another government witness, Mary Ong alias Rosebud, told him in a radio program he co-hosts with Kay Dacer.

At one point in the hearing Lim appeared to revert to his "Dirty Harry" image.

He issued a veiled threat against Wong, saying: "*Buenas lang ito*

WONG/ A19

The case of the Senate inquisition

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

Editor's Note: Cardiologist Rafael Castillo writes "Medical Files" for the Science/Health section. The weekly column stresses the socio-psychological impact of medical disorders.

ANALYSIS

THE FIRST day of the Senate hearing is really a good case study for a psychology class. Most of the senators had grilled Col. Victor Corpus and his witness, Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, in a most condescending and inquisitorial manner.

Some consider it an astonishing psycho-sociological phenomenon that a group of supposedly charismatic public servants—who won the people's votes with their gentleness; who humbled themselves by singing and dancing on stage, carrying children, and hugging the eld-

THE CASE/ A6

THE INVESTIGATED, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, is himself investigating alleged military connivance with the Abu Sayyaf bandits. With him in Lamitan listening to Father Nacorda are Senators Ramon Magsaysay, Gregorio Honasan and Noli de Castro.

CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DAPAT CANG NA ALAMIN

Ping probed for bugging

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND VOLT CONTRERAS

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday ordered a fact-finding investigation into allegations that Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his men at the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force had engaged in illegal wiretapping even as House members said they would compel the Philippine National Police to reveal the names of political figures that Lacson had targeted.

Rolando Andaya Jr., the chair of the House appropriations committee, said they will ask PNP chief Leandro Mendoza to submit a "full report" on the alleged wiretapping activities when the PNP presents its P34.9-billion 2002 budget proposal next week.

Desierto said the bugging and surveillance equipment recovered by the PNP in a raid on Monday could already form a solid basis for ordering a formal investigation.

But he said a fact-finding probe was still needed so Ombudsman investigators could "collate and collect" evidence to strengthen the investigation.

Entrapment

The PNP seized P30-million worth of sophisticated bugging devices from three ex-PAOCTF personnel and two businessmen in an entrapment operation at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City last Monday.

The equipment included a computer disc, which reportedly contained the cell phone numbers of political figures who became the target of the alleged wiretapping activities of Lacson and his men during the impeachment trial of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

The Ombudsman said his office would investigate the matter even without a formal complaint.

"It's automatic. We will act on it immediately based on the *motu propio* principle," he told reporters at the Manila Overseas Press Club.

Desierto said the investigation would be in two phases.

"First, the probers will get documentary and real pieces of evidence. Second, they will try to see if there's a linkage between these pieces of evidence and those people linked to the alleged wiretapping incidents."

Full disclosure

Andaya said the PNP "owes it to the victims" to make a full disclosure of how the illegal activity was conducted.

He said his panel would also try to retrace the paper trail in the purchase of the equipment.

According to the PNP, the people who were targeted for wiretapping included the House prosecutors, the senator-judges and other opposition figures during Estrada's impeachment trial.

The equipment, reportedly bought with government funds, disappeared soon after Estrada's ouster.

"Was then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo a target? How about (then Representatives) Joker Arroyo and Feliciano Belmonte? Who were the journalists and civil society leaders whose calls were monitored?" Andaya asked.

Bubby Dacer

Desierto refused to comment whether allegations that slain publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman may have been subjected to electronic monitoring would affect the fact-finding investigation.

"We will look into it. That's why I ordered Ombudsman investigators to coordinate with the NBI," he said.

On Wednesday, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco admitted that the NBI was looking into the theory that Dacer and Lagman had been electronically monitored before they were killed.

He said that based on the initial investigation, there was reason to believe that there was "telephone monitoring" before the two killings.

Wycoco said, however, that he was not implying that the PAOCTF men accused of killing Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito, on Nov. 24 were the same ones who murdered Lagman.

Accused general now an accuser

BY CARLITO PABLO

DID Fr. Cirilo Nacorda himself arrange the entry of the Abu Sayyaf into Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2?

Was Nacorda's church the designated drop-off point for payment of ransom for some of the hostages abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27?

These questions were raised by embattled Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez who himself was accused by Nacorda of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf.

Dominguez sought to turn the tables against Nacorda in a four-page statement titled "Lamitan-A Soldier's Lament."

Dominguez was previously relieved as commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division after Abu Sayyaf bandits managed to slip out of a military cordon ringing the Lamitan church where they were trapped.

Before the bandits escaped, hostages Reghis Romero, his female companion, Maria Rhiza Santos, and 9-year-old boy RJ Recio were released.

Ransom was believed to have been paid for the freedom of Romero, a construction magnate, although he has officially denied this.

The Senate and House are scheduled to conduct a probe into the military's alleged connivance with the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

According to Nacorda, who claims to have other witnesses to support him, Dominguez was seen with a suitcase full of cash before the bandits slipped out.

There are accounts that Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya was talking to somebody, presumably a ranking military officer, about the pull-out of troops at the back of the church before the gunmen made their getaway.

In his statement, Dominguez said that after the fighting has ceased in Basilan, he and other officers heard Nacorda's assistant Fr. Rene Enriquez relating that when the Abu Sayyaf saw him (Enriquez), they asked: "Where is the money?"

"He (Enriquez) shut his mouth when he sensed the sharp look thrown his way by Fr. Nacorda," Dominguez said.

"Was there indeed prior talk about ransom? Had anyone arranged that the church would the drop-off point for ransom? Who made the coordination?" Dominguez said.

Dominguez also expressed wonder who actually shot dead Nacorda's soldier-bodyguard when the church was occupied by the Abu Sayyaf.

Rightists watched —Corpus

BY A. ECHAVEZ

THE ARMED Forces is closely monitoring several "rightists" who may be part of a group out to grab power from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus made this revelation Wednesday night even as he assured the public that the present government still has the all-out support of the military leadership.

"That's one possibility that we're closely monitoring," Corpus said when asked about the rumored establishment of a civilian-military junta.

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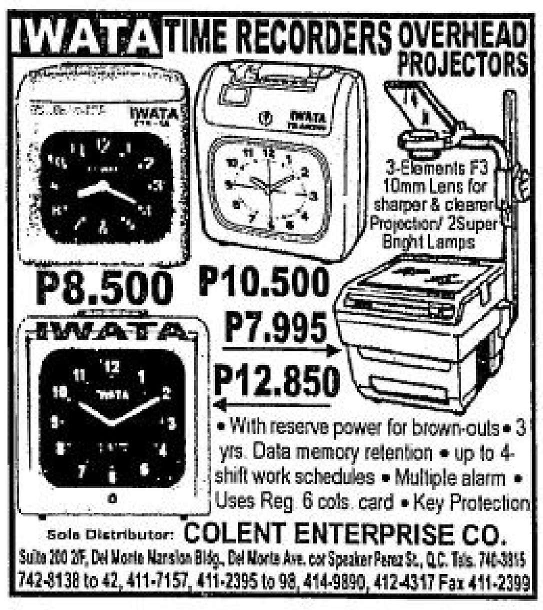
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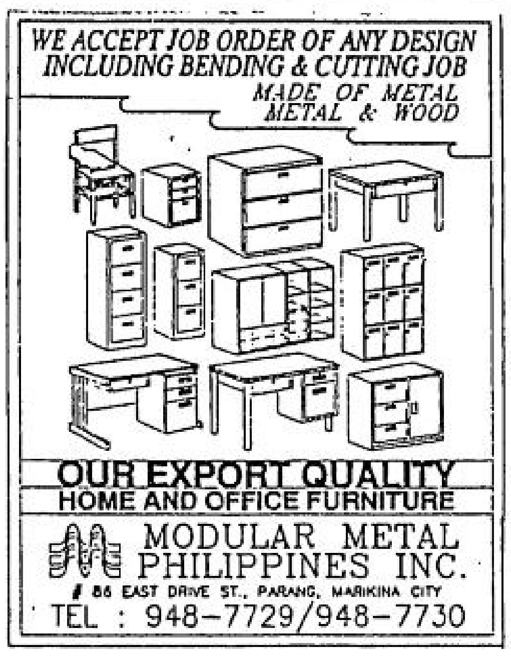
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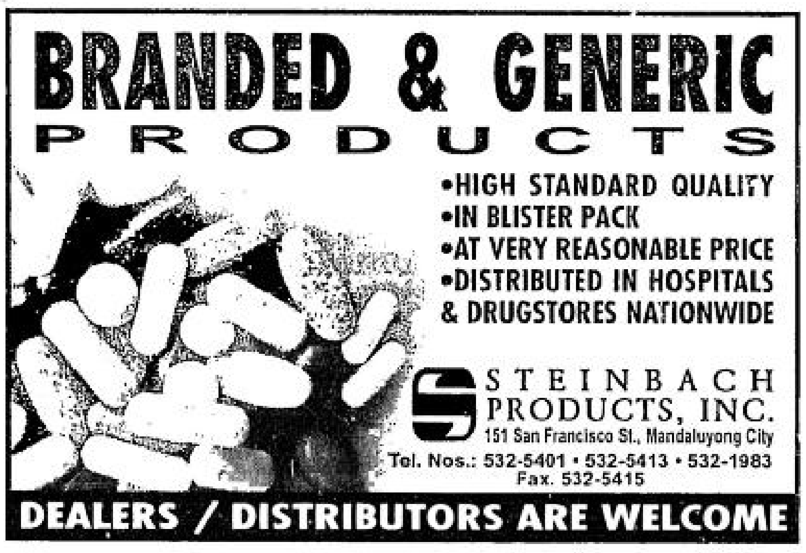
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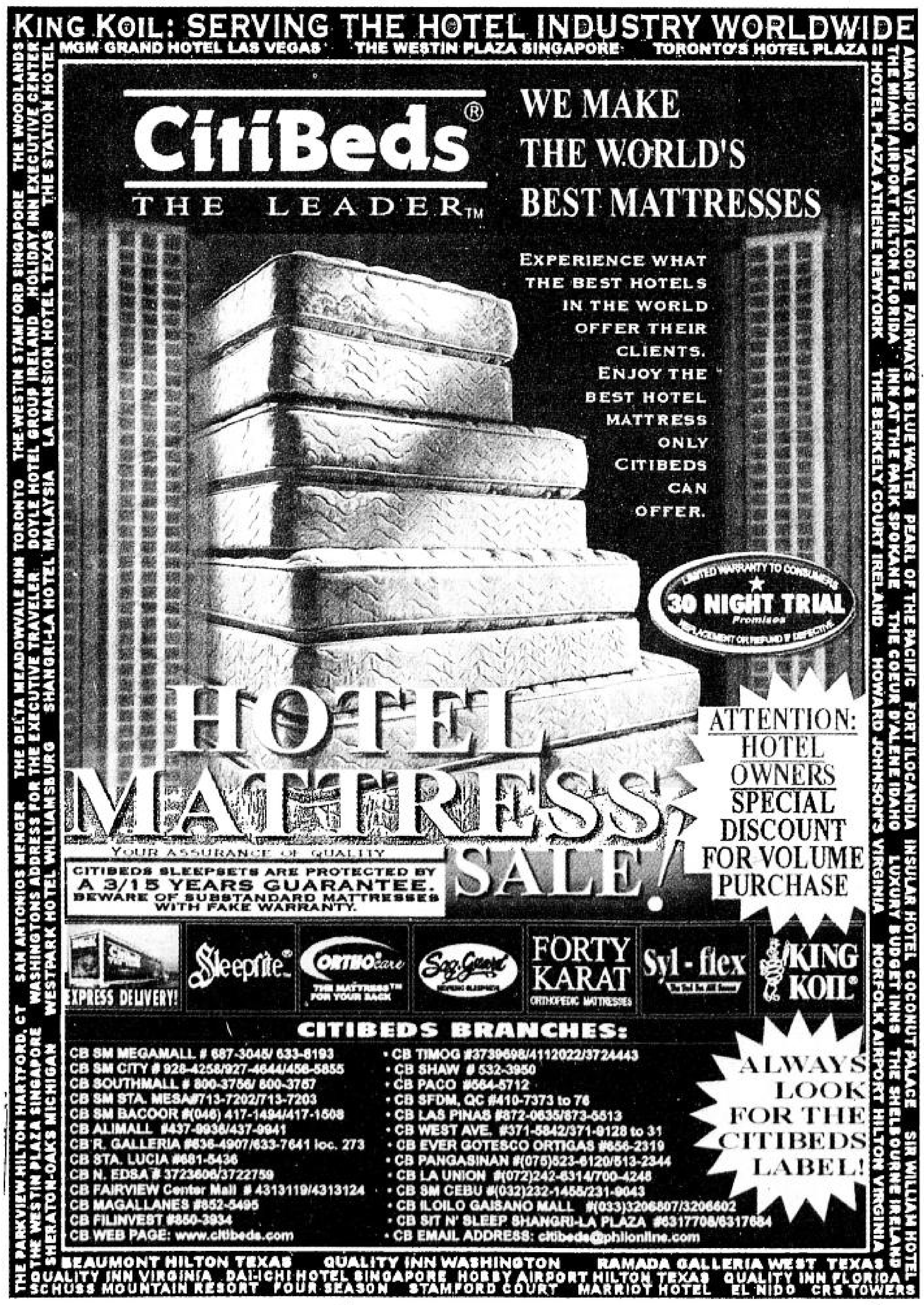
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Gloria seeks Brunei help on int'l crime

By Martin P. Marfil

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Amid the great noise and excitement at home over military-intelligence warnings that "narco-politics" was gaining a foothold in the Philippines, President Macapagal-Arroyo sought the help of Brunei in combating the transnational crimes of money-laundering, drug trafficking and arms smuggling.

Ms Macapagal, who is on the second day of a three-day visit to the sultanate, referred to collaboration in fighting transnational crimes in a speech to mark the signing of a defense cooperation agreement between the two countries.

"I trust that the military cooperation provided for in this agreement will help ensure peace in Mindanao," she said in her speech.

Brunei had been an active participant in the Philippines' diplomatic bid to end the Mindanao conflict.

It is a member of the eight-member committee tasked by the Organization of Islamic Countries to monitor peace and development in Mindanao.

Peace in Mindanao

The President thanked Brunei for its participation in peace and development efforts in Mindanao and urged it to help in explaining the Philippine position to the OIC.

Yesterday, the two leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed to relaunch the BIMP-East Asean Growth Area involving the contiguous provinces of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Efforts to bring the growth area into fruition were scuttled by the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and 1998.

Before her departure from Manila on Wednesday, Ms Macapagal said one aim of her visit to the oil-rich country was to seek Bolkiah's support for BIMP-Eaga.

"My delegation and I express our faith in His Majesty's leadership for the active revival of BIMP-Eaga, not only at a sub-regional level but also at a bilateral level," Ms Macapagal said in a speech during a royal banquet held in her honor.

"We should create and explore more business possibilities and create more synergy to the BIMP-Eaga," Bolkiah said.

"The BIMP-Eaga has been a useful platform for the small and medium enterprises of both countries to interact and explore new joint ventures," he added.

Slowdown

Both leaders acknowledged the importance of the Asean, especially amid the global economic slowdown.

Bolkiah is the current chair of Asean and his small country of 300,000 is hosting this year's summit.

The Brunei leader said Asean unity had become even more critical as Asean countries have not fully recovered from the regional financial crisis.

Ms Macapagal said Brunei was important to her administration for its role in the early conclusion of a code of conduct to govern the different parties to the Spratlys dispute.

Brunei is one of the six claimant-countries to the Spratlys.

It is the only claimant which has not stationed troops on the islands that it claims.

"On the South China Sea, it gratifies me to know that Brunei agrees with the Philippines on the settlement of disputes in accordance with recognized principles of international law," Ms Macapagal said in her speech.

The President's visit, which ends today, was also marked by the signing of several trade agreements.

Philippine and Brunei businessmen yesterday signed seven memoranda of agreements, including three on petrochemicals.

Pilipinas Shell and Brunei Shell signed an agreement for the cross training of Filipino staff to run a natural gas pipeline that will run from Palawan to Luzon. Another cross-training agreement involves Brunei Liquid National Gas and Shell Phil. Exploration.

The Philippine National Oil Co. also signed an agreement for offshore drilling services with Brunei's Mashhor.

Air Philippines is expected to sign an agreement for chartered flights to Brunei which hosts about 20,000 Filipino workers.

Gloria claims royal ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—President Macapagal-Arroyo, who claims to have relatives in numerous parts of the Philippines, has revealed never-before-known links to the Brunei royal family.

At a state banquet held in her honor on Wednesday night, the President referred to her visit as reinforcing a centuries-old tradition of high-level visits between the two countries.

She said that an ancestor of hers, Rajah Lakandula, had come to Brunei around the year 1575 to visit his cousin, Sultan Saiful Rajah.

Lakandula apparently was a descendant of Brunei's Sultan Bolkiah V.

The "Borneo Bulletin" in an article published yesterday said Sultan Bolkiah V, known as the "singing captain," had ruled during the "golden age" of Brunei when its territory reached as far as the Philippines.

In an interview with the Brunei daily, Ms Macapagal said that the first Sultan Bolkiah had married a Filipina, Sulu Princess Lela Menchanai.

Their grandson, she said, was Lakandula whose grandchild in turn was a Macapagal.

Martin P. Marfil

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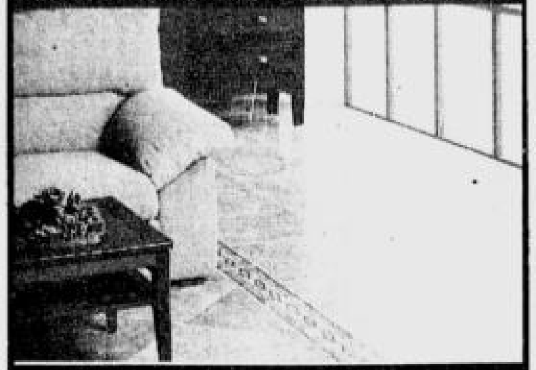

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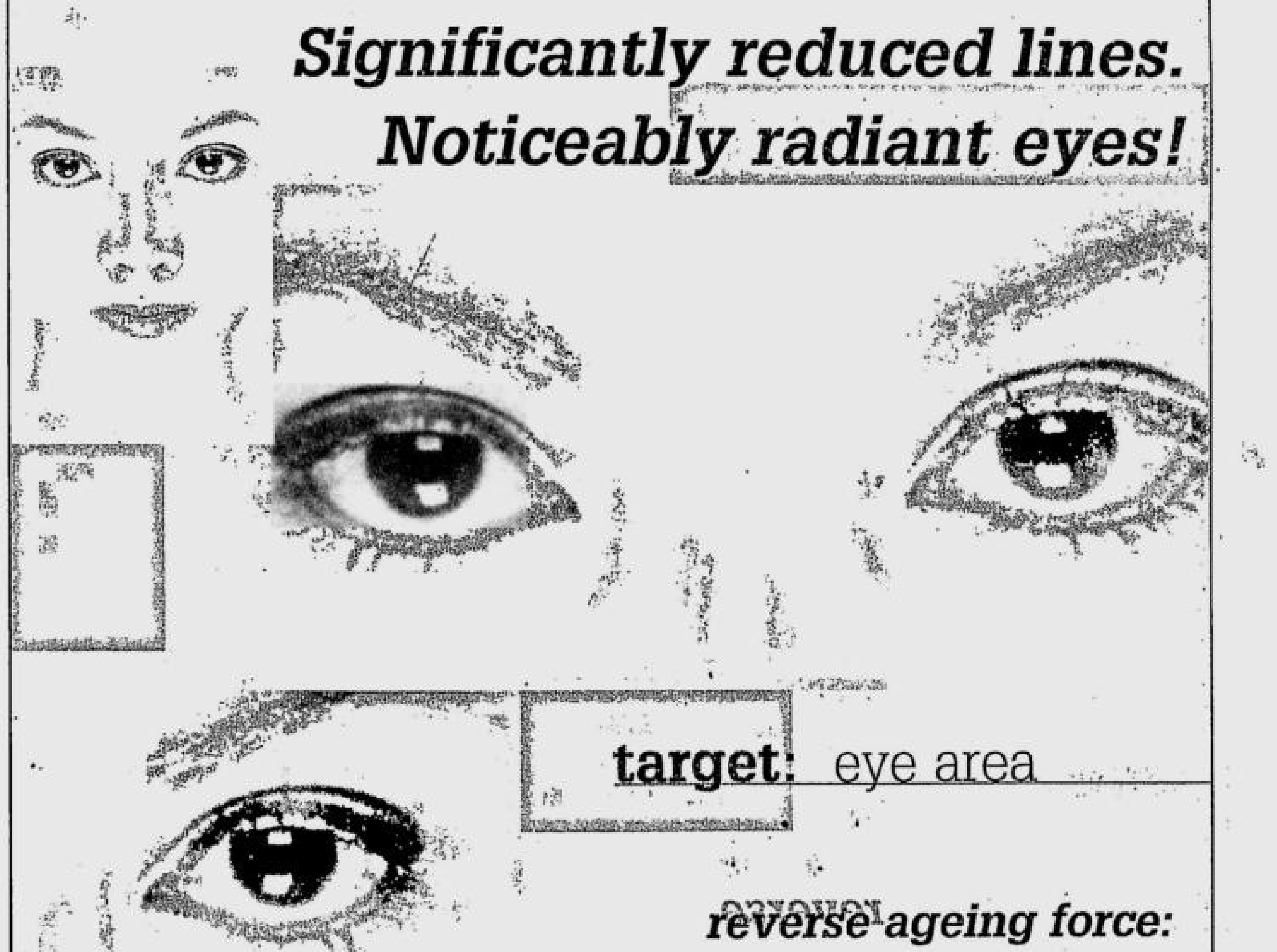

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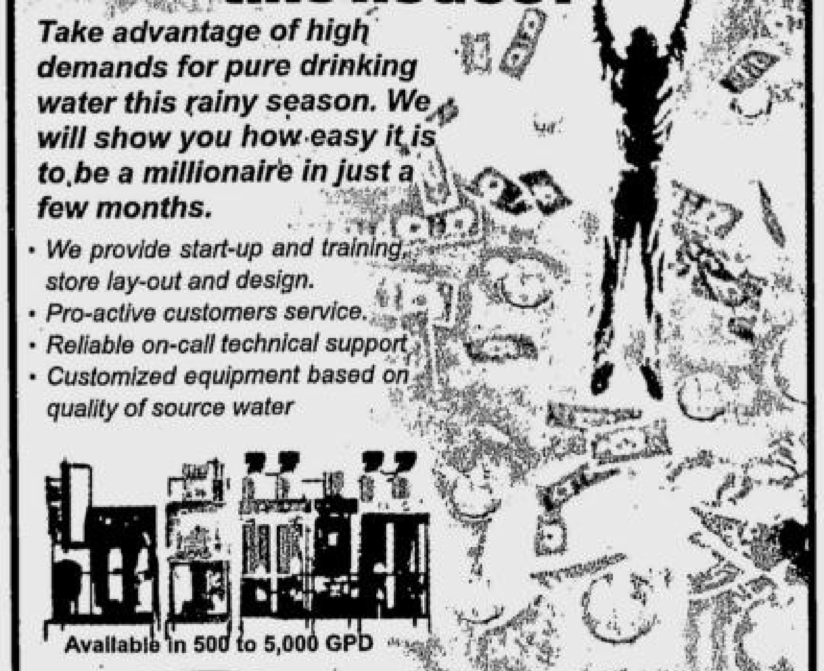

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Recto votes padded by 18,000, Comelec admits

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE COMMISSION on Elections has admitted that the final tally of Sen. Ralph Recto in the May 14 elections still included 18,000 padded votes in Zamboanga del Norte which were supposed to have been deducted from his total.

The three-member Comelec Supervisory Committee, headed by executive director Mamasapunod Aguam, claimed that Resolution 01-003 of the National Board of Canvassers dated May 31, which ordered the deduction of 3,000 votes each from six towns in Zamboanga del Norte, was not served on the working groups which handled the tabulation.

The Comelec en banc sitting as the national canvassers' board, in Resolution 01-003 , ordered the deduction of a total of 18,000 votes from Recto in the towns of Mutia, Pinan, Sergio Osmeña, Gudod, Tagpilisan and Kalawit. The board had discovered that the figures were altered to favor Recto.

No resolution

But the committee attached a service copy of the board resolution to show that the order was served only to counsels of candidates and to the representatives of the law department and the National Movement for Free Elections.

"Since the working groups did not receive said resolution, they could not have effected the corrections for lack of authority to do so," the committee said in a three-page comment sent to the office of Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo.

The committee's comment was in reply to the dissenting opinions issued by Commissioners Luz Tancangco and Rufino Javier who voted against the latest NBOC ruling. Resolution 01-006 dated July 20, proclaiming Recto as the 12th placer and Sen. Gregorio Honasan as 13th placer.

No correction

The two commissioners said the 30,000 votes should have been deducted from Recto in Zamboanga del Norte.

Rufus Rodriguez, lawyer for Sen. Loi Estrada, had earlier protested that the Comelec did not correct Recto's votes in Zamboanga del Norte as the tally still included the 30,000, which the NBOC had ordered deducted. Rodriguez said 12,000 votes should have been deducted from four more towns as ordered by the NBOC on June 4.

But the Comelec supervisory committee denied that there was a further order by the NBOC on June 4, or on proclamation day itself, deducting another 12,000 from Recto in four towns in Zamboanga del Norte.

"Verification with the commission secretary or NBOC Secretariat reveals there is nothing on record to show that there was such an order," the committee said. "Assuming there was one, the working groups were not served with such a resolution."

Aside from Aguam, the two other members of the committee were Pio Jose Joson, deputy executive director for operations, and Estrella de Mesa, deputy executive director for administration. Heads of the three working groups involved in the canvassing also signed the comment. They were Gideon de Guzman for the Tabulation Group, Ester Villaflor-Roxas, and Fe Campos for the Audit Group.

Unbelievable

Tancangco, in an earlier interview, said the claims by the committee that they did not receive copies of the resolutions were amusing if not downright unbelievable. She said she would furnish the committee her copies of the resolutions.

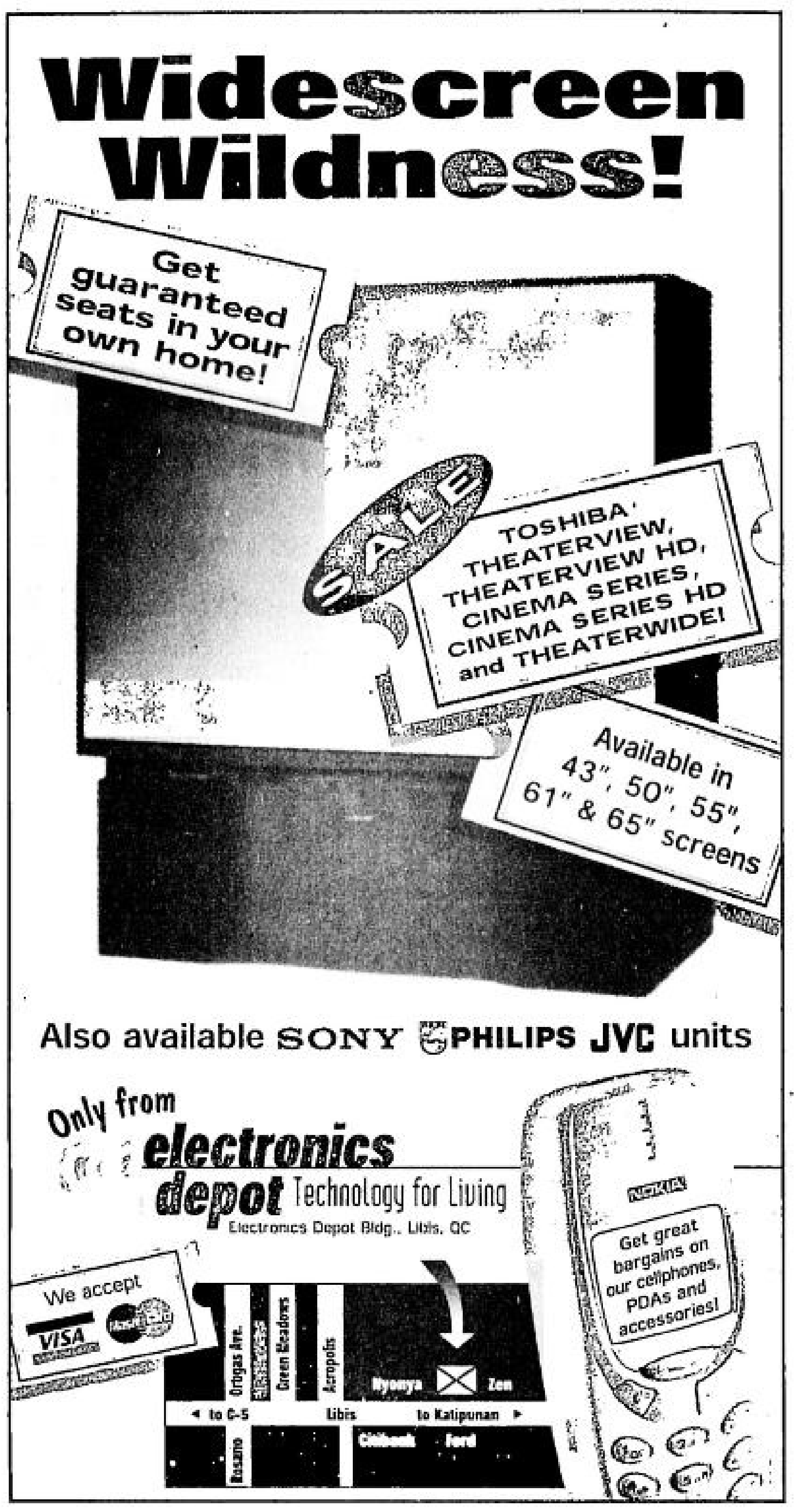
Honasan had filed an election protest with the Senate Electoral Tribunal questioning a total of 180,000 votes of Recto in several provinces in Mindanao, including the 30,000 which were supposed to have been deducted in Zamboanga del Norte.

The 13th placer will serve out the three remaining years of Vice President Teofisto Guingona's unfinished term, while the 12th placer will serve a full six-year term.

Second look

In their dissenting opinion on the NBOC Resolution 01-006, Tancangco and Javier noted that padded votes were still intact in Recto's tally, aside from the fact that only three of seven members of the en banc, approved the said resolution.

Javier and Tancangco supported the pending motion to recall filed by Rodriguez so the Comelec may take a second look at the figures, while Commissioner Mehol Sadain, who was not around when Resolution 01-006 was passed, had issued a memo protesting that he was not even notified about the voting.



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2 dead as troops, kidnappers clash

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Government forces and a group of kidnappers who snatched several Chinese workers of the P3-billion irrigation project in Carmen town, in North Cotabato clashed anew Wednesday afternoon in the hinterlands of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

Major Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division said the encounter, which occurred near barangay Bunawan and Polomolok, left two suspected kidnappers dead and a number of others wounded.

He said soldiers of the Army's 47th Infantry Battalion chanced upon the kidnappers, led by Abu Hamsa, during a pursuit operation, launched after the group shot to death two of their Chinese hostages on Sunday.

An armalite rifle was recovered from one of the slain suspects.

"We are on (the right) track against this kidnap gang, we will get them in due time," Ando told the INQUIRER.

But he could not say when the military could rescue the remaining hostages.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said he would personally ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to allow the Army engineers to complete the irrigation dam after the Chinese construction firm decided to pull out.

"This project must be completed because it will benefit mostly Muslim farmers in Maguindanao," Piñol told the INQUIRER.

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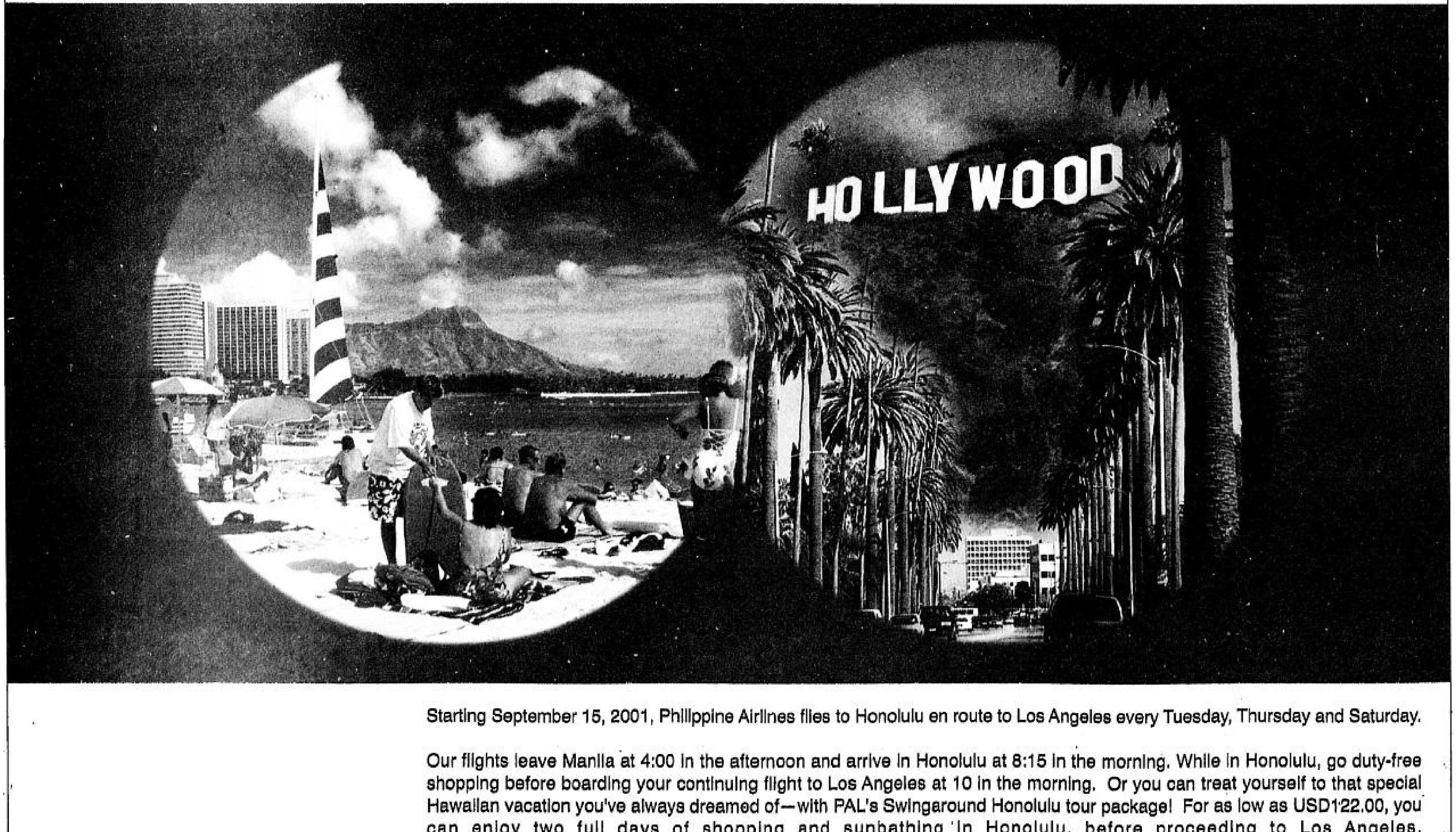

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Prosecutors urge SC to reverse Sandigan

By Donna S. Cueto

AFTER experiencing a series of defeats in their perjury case against ousted President Joseph Estrada at the Sandiganbayan, state prosecutors yesterday decided to appeal to the Supreme Court to stop the Sandiganbayan's 1st Division from continuing hearings on the perjury case.

The prosecution said it would file a petition for certiorari with the high court to reverse two recent rulings of the 1st Division chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, as well as seek a temporary restraining order to stop the division from hearing the perjury case.

The prosecution is questioning Garchitorena's denial of its motion seeking to include 51 more corporations in the information in the perjury case, after the June 27 arraignment.

Motion to inhibit

Another Garchitorena ruling being questioned is his rejection of the prosecution's motion for Garchitorena to inhibit himself from hearing the case, citing his alleged bias in favor of Estrada.

Prosecutor Raymundo Julio Olaguer said the Ombudsman would file the petition for certiorari with the high court as soon as the 1st Division issues a written resolution reflecting Garchitorena's decision made in open court last Wednesday.

The 1st Division on Wednesday denied the prosecution's motion for reconsideration seeking to reverse an earlier court ruling junking its motion to amend for the third time the information in the perjury case.

"We will elevate this to the Supreme Court and file the petition for certiorari as soon as possible. We could have filed it today but we have to get a hard copy of the order which was orally dictated (on Wednesday)," Olaguer explained yesterday.

Stopping Sandigan

"Aside from that, we will be asking for a temporary restraining order to temporarily suspend proceedings here in the Sandiganbayan," he said.

Olaguer said that the marking of exhibits, and informal proceedings on Sept. 14 would not be postponed.

What can be postponed is the trial set for October and other formal court proceedings in the perjury case.

He said the prosecution would also use as point in favor of its petition for certiorari Estrada's refusal to enter a plea during arraignment.

"That means because he did not enter a plea, he did not admit that the information was valid," he said.

New warrants out for Atong, et al.

THE SANDIGANBYAN yesterday issued an "alias warrant of arrest" for three respondents in the perjury case against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada—Yolanda Ricaforte, Charlie "Atong" Ang and Alma Alfaro.

An alias warrant of arrest is nothing more than a copy of the original warrant which could not be served for one reason or another.

Ricaforte and Ang are believed to be out of the country, having escaped long before the first warrants for their arrest were issued by the court in April.

Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division, said he had to issue the "alias warrants of arrest" for the three upon the request of the prosecution.

If the arrest warrants cannot be enforced because the accused are out of the country, Badoy said the government should file a petition for extradition with the justice department of the country where the subjects of the arrest warrants are believed to be hiding.

Badoy said he did not issue alias warrants for "John Does" as requested by the prosecution because these could be used against anyone suspected of being involved in the plunder case.

Ricaforte was the Estrada-appointed "auditor" of the ousted president's alleged share of illegal gambling payoffs, according to the testimony of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Ang was one of those involved in the *jueteng* payoffs, again according to Singson's testimony.

Alfaro was allegedly one of those who had gone to the banks to withdraw funds from accounts believed to contain *jueteng* bribes.

Also yesterday, Badoy said that former San Juan mayor Jinggoy Estrada must return to the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center once he is declared in stable condition and discharged from the Makati Medical Center where undergoing tests for a suspected heart ailment.

Until the court resolves Jinggoy's petition for bail, he cannot be allowed to go home even if his cardiologist has recommended "home rest" for him, Badoy said.

The hearing on Jinggoy's motion for bail set for yesterday had to be reset after government offices closed down because of heavy rains and floods. *Donna S. Cueto*

Justice asked to inhibit self

THE OPPOSITION has urged Anacleto Badoy, presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division, to inhibit himself from further hearing the cases of former President Joseph Estrada, saying he is biased.

"There is basis for our apprehension that Justice Badoy could not give an objective and fair assessment of the cases against President Estrada. We urge him therefore to step aside in order to avoid further erosion of the public's trust with our criminal justice system," said opposition spokesperson Crispin Remulla.

Remulla cited the appointment of Badoy's brother, Solomon, to a sensitive post at the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The appointment, he said, was made despite the fact that he has a pending case at the Sandiganbayan for graft and corruption filed by the Ombudsman for misappropriating funds of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) where he was appointed by former President Fidel Ramos some four years ago.

Badoy himself was appointed to the anti-graft court by Ramos and many believe it was his presence at the Sandigan that made possible for the case against his brother to drag on for years, Remulla said in a press statement.

Remulla said all these facts tend to confirm their apprehension that Badoy's objectivity had been compromised and the next best thing for him to do is to inhibit himself.

"Justice Badoy, clearly has a debt of gratitude with Ms Macapagal-Arroyo for the appointment of his brother at the LWUA despite a pending case of graft and corruption hanging over his head. He is also indebted to Mr. Ramos for his appointment at the Sandiganbayan and that of his brother at the SPCPD," Remulla said.

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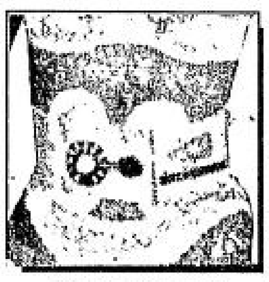

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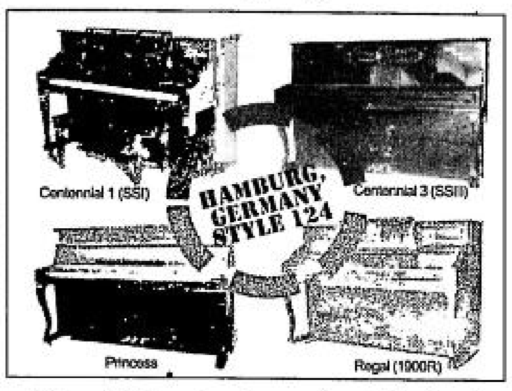

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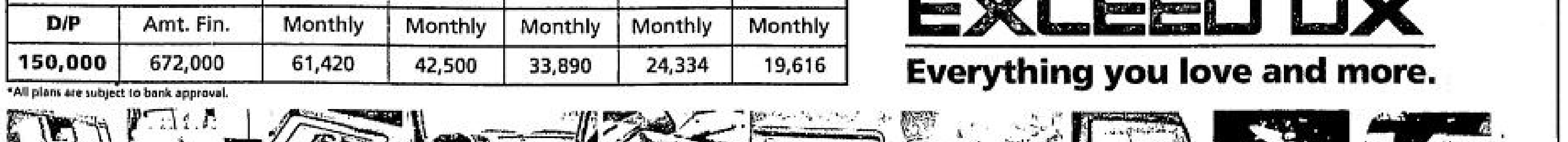

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US firm offers . . .

(From page A1)

unauthorized replication.

The DNA Copyright Institute of San Francisco last week launched a service that allows people to file a copyright on their DNA code.

The service costs $1,500 and requires a user to first generate a print out a graphical "map" of their DNA code. That map is then filed with the US copyright office.

Others then trying to be the next, say, Madonna, will then violate the copyright laws, said the company's founder, Andre Crump.

"It's analogous to how software is covered by copyright," said Crump. "You're the author of your DNA code, so you are protected under the copyright law."

The institute, according to their website, believes current US copyright laws apply to DNA.

According to the US copyright law, anyone could protect "original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, now known or later developed."

"That law will let us apply copyright law to technologies that are just starting to emerge, like DNA and cloning protections," argued Crump.

But legal experts are divided on whether a person's DNA can be legally protected from duplication.

Professor Stephen Barnett, who teaches copyright law at the University of California Law School at Berkeley, said DNA could not be copyright protected because individuals don't have "authorship" to their DNA.

"The author of DNA is not the individual," said Barnett.

"The author of DNA is, well, the Creator, with a capital C, or whoever you want to believe made us. But it's not the individual."

Barnett said that instead of a software code, DNA is like a fingerprint, which isn't created by the individual.

"It's just a natural fact, not something authored by anyone," Barnett said.

Crump, a 37-year-old former product manager for high-tech companies such as Sun and Apple, said his fledgling company has received a few calls from the curious, but has yet to sign up a client.

"But I think people, especially those who have some fame, will want to protect themselves this way," said Crump.

"You don't want to have someone competing against you by being you." *AFP*

The case of the Senate inquisition

(From page A1)

erly during their campaign sorties—can suddenly turn into tormenting inquisitors, metaphorically similar to a pack of blood-hungry wolves.

Individually, they exude gentility and humility, but as a group, they assume an entirely different personality, a mob-like personality, which may not be as physically violent as the classical lynch mob, but just as mentally and emotionally destructive. Even to the uninvolved observer, this form of high-handedness seems to stink to the point of nausea.

What do you think happened to these honorable members of our parliament?

Mind-set

Let's try to dissect this socio-psychological case: First, let's look at the mind-set of the senators. It would appear that they feel that their status is above that of anyone they call to testify before them. Hence, the master-subject mentality supervenes; they are the masters; the others are subjects. If you were asked to testify, you always have to start or end your statements with 'Your Honor.' They can be harsh and condescending to you, but you have to maintain your self-effacing stance no matter how insulting they get, lest you are cited for contempt.

This is of course diametrically opposed to the ideal mentality of true great leaders, who believe that they should occupy a position lower than the people they represent and serve. The sincere leader believes that although his status as a person may be bigger or higher, he should humble himself such that his actions and behavior place him in a lower position. It is much like the oceans and seas that, though they're bigger bodies of water, occupy a lower level than the rivers and its tributaries. Hence, the rivers all flow into the seas.

If the seas were to occupy a higher level, the rivers and tributaries will overflow and the deluge will cause perpetual destruction. Such things happen when the laws of nature are violated. A similar catastrophe happens when the laws of true public service and leadership are not followed. The people's disgust and disillusionment overflow and become a perfect medium for rebellion and chaos.

Psychological shift

With a not-so-ideal mind-set, the energy, which is likely to be generated during the Senate hearings, becomes a powerful negative energy, which makes it easy for the senators to get carried away and be as brash and aggressive as their other colleagues, replacing what may be their inherent gentle and humble characters. Hence, unknowingly, even honorable men and women can adopt a psychological shift in their personality, which in some sense may be similar to a lynch mob personality.

What causes this psychological shift?

It is a human tendency to do as friends and colleagues do, to "fit in" so as to be liked, be acceptable to them and be supported by them in future undertakings. In this process of fitting in, though, one may give up things that mean a great deal to him. One may be reinforcing his bonds within his select peer group but sacrificing his relationship with other groups, or an even more important group, which he has completely ignored because he got carried away by the negative energy and momentum generated by the situation.

At that particular moment, the currently practiced behavior of his group is the most ideal thing to follow; bonding of and acceptability by the group are primary concerns; the welfare of the group is of utmost importance. Even if one does not agree with what the other members of the peer group do or say, the most one may likely do is to remain silent. However, once the activity ceases and the negative energy dissipates, the individual member may wonder at how he was able to act, speak or behave in such a manner.

It's amazing how one's personality can suddenly change!

Personality is not a fixed or rigidly stereotypical trait. To a great extent, we are molded into who we are today by a wide array of external forces. In the process we inevitably cast aside our true or essential self as we continually acquire new attributes, new qualities, even though these new characteristics do not necessarily conform sometimes with what we truly believe in. We are made to believe, erroneously in many instances, that these qualities are necessary for a favorable outcome in a given situation, and surviving or prevailing in the long term.

We've always been told to adapt to survive. Up to a certain point, this is still healthy and constructive. Politicians may adopt new attributes "to capture the people's imagination," and again "to fit in." But there's usually a big conflict when the qualities and attributes one adopts are far different from one's essential self.

False personality

For the inherently good public servant, this may be most unfortunate because they may have to put aside their essence, and they unwittingly acquire a false or pseudo personality. Essence is what we are, it is our nature, our true self, our interests, traits and inclinations, something, which, for us, is real.

On the other hand, personality contains all of our acquired traits in this life, our mannerisms, behaviors, imitations of others, and everything else which we have programmed into our psychological inner computer in order to survive in the external world. If essence contains all that is true within us, all that we own, personality is frequently filled with many things that are not our own, that is false. If it does not conform to one's true character, the personality, whether it is pleasant or unpleasant, is a pseudo or false personality.

A false personality has been compared by some sociologists and psychologists to a shell, a false façade, that precariously shields one's essence or inner self. It consists of external behavior, movements, postures, gestures, facial and verbal expressions, reactions to situations, all external manifestations.

A person suddenly exposed to a tough and confrontational situation may suddenly assume a tough and confrontational personality depending on what he perceives the situation requires. If he sees his colleagues acting in a given manner, which appears to be acceptable to his collegial body, he tends to adopt that pattern of behavior. These personalities are not necessarily an accurate reflection of who they truly are or what their characters inherently reflect.

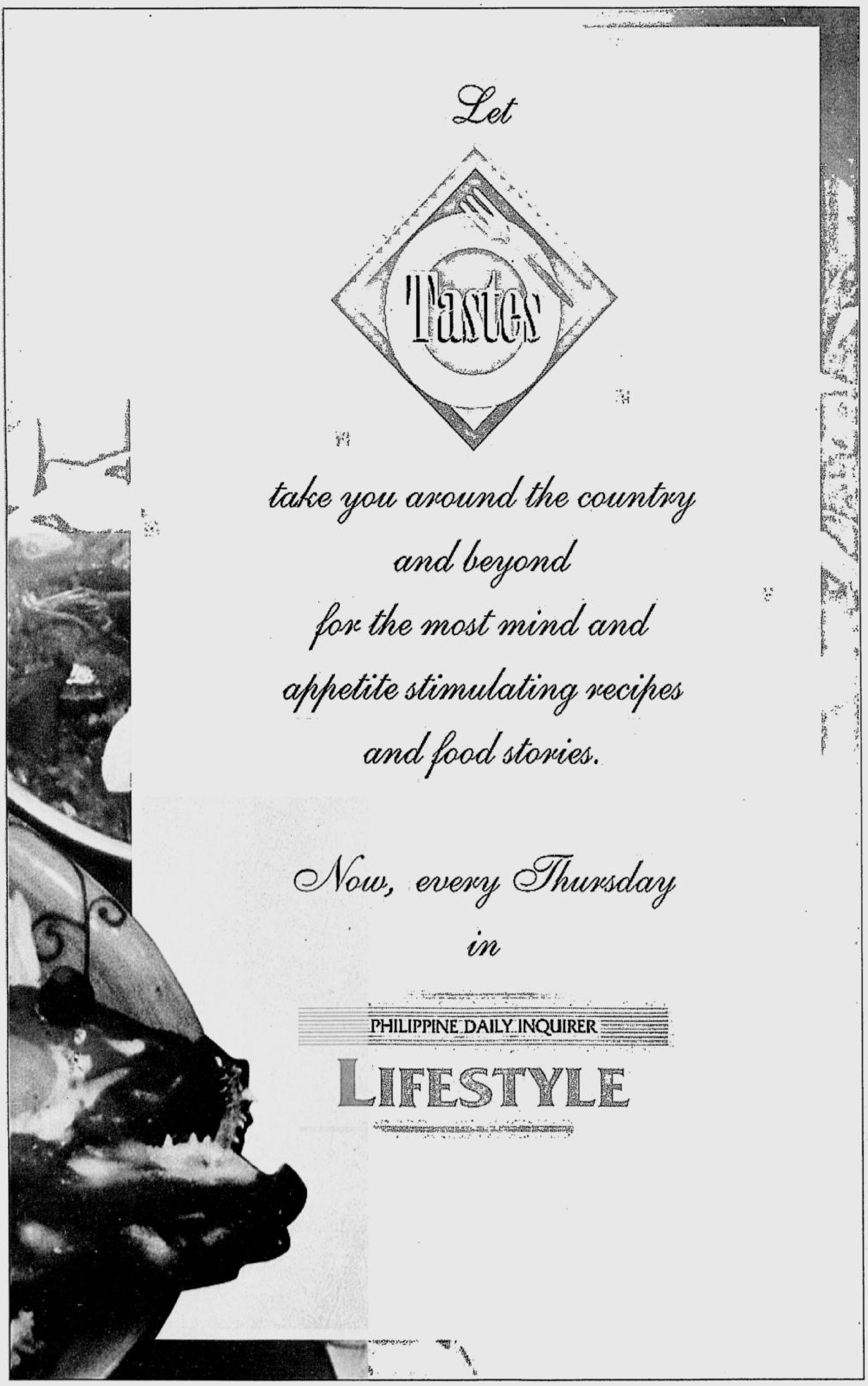
'Murder of inner child'

However, as a false personality becomes more reinforced and integrated into the core of one's character, the person starts to accept and recognize it as his own. Without his knowing it, the person allows the false personality to dominate his thoughts and govern his subsequent actions. It erodes his true convictions and slowly but progressively retards his learning and growth process, since true learning frequently requires humility, something that a false personality cannot allow.

Because it avoids humbling situations and seeks to defend its picture of itself, gradually, over time, it hinders the development or even manifestation of one's essential self or essence. Some modern psychological writers have rightly labeled this phenomenon "the murder of the inner child," the loss of one's pure essence, which is usually preserved during childhood.

It is truly sad when false personality has completely taken over, in effect destroying one's essence. People in public life are most vulnerable. Some professional politicians are this way, as are some people in the entertainment business. Both of them succumb to the need to assume a different role, and act out that role well. They have to perpetually "act in order to fit in."

As a writer once put it, "It is not possible to penetrate through to the person beneath. It's as if there is nothing there, nothing but the role they are playing."



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LIFESTYLE

Erap pal does a Chavit

(From page A1)

He described Estrada as the one who "blesses all the criminals" and Jinggoy as "Mr. Gambler" who "blesses all the smugglers." He called Lacson "the brains" of the group and Ang as "the brains" who "thinks of evil."

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Tuadles murder

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In 1996, Estrada admitted that the club was named with his April 19 birthday in mind.

Devnani said he stepped forth as the club owner in 1995, when the club was already attracting the attention of the media and Estrada was eyeing the presidency. He said Estrada feared the club was gaining notoriety because of the "illegal activities" going on inside.

Devnani, who took up residence in the Philippines in 1979, said he met the Estradas eight years ago.

He said he came out because he started getting death threats after Estrada was ousted from office. The threats, he added, came from Ang.

He said he incurred Ang's ire after he told the latter he should consider paying his debts to society, including returning about P30 million to a kidnap victim, reportedly an Indian national.

Asked by Pimentel who the victim was, Devnani declined to name him, lest he be "liquidated" by Lacson's men. "I need your cooperation, sir, I need all of your cooperation to bring the victim here to speak the truth . . . it's about time," he said.

Respected member

"I wanted to clear my name with my community," said Devnani who, according to lawyer Leonard de Vera, is a "respected member of the Filipino-Indian community."

De Vera said the Indian has "nothing to gain in testifying against Senator Lacson and others."

Corpus said Devnani has direct knowledge of Estrada and Lacson's crimes as he belonged to the "inner circle."

As proof of Devnani's closeness to Estrada, Dante Jimenez of the anti-crime group said Devnani can be seen in the video seated behind Estrada when Bentain took video footage of them playing baccarat at a casino.

For his part, Devnani said he wanted to come out as early as 1998 "because my conscience was bothering me."

But he said he could not trust anyone, until Corpus came.

"I love Corpus. He's the only guy I can trust. We need him, pray for him . . . he's a true Filipino. He wants to do something better for our future," he said.

Devnani is now in the custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Big assist

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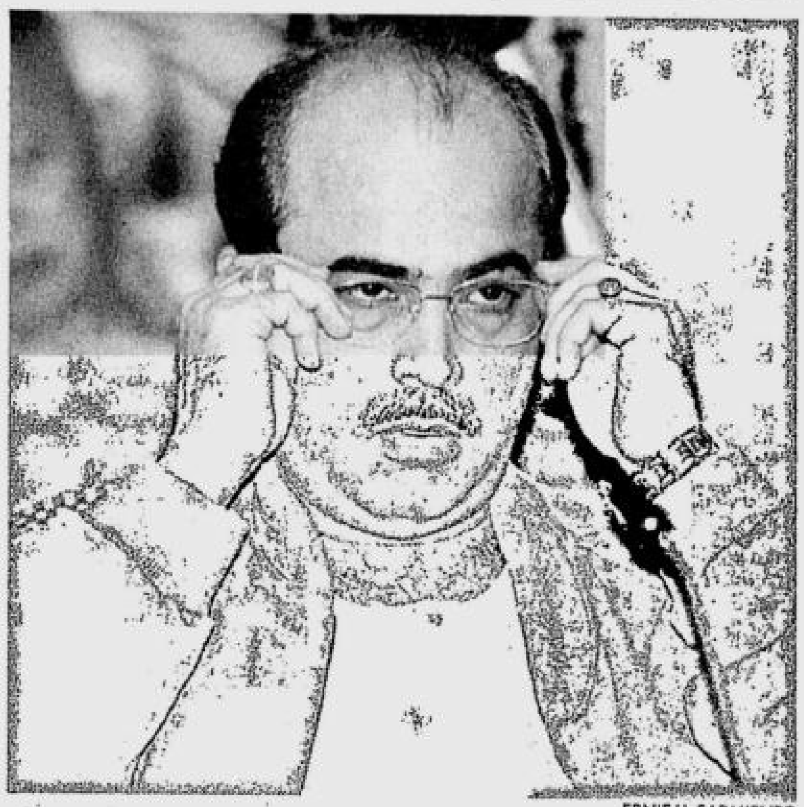

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

DEVNANI: My conscience was bothering me.

ATONG ANG

BUTCH TENORIO

Devnani's 'evil' list

THE ESTRADAS, Father and Son

(Editor's Note: Following is the witness' unedited statement dated July 22, 2001.)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters

I am Danny Devnani.

I am here to testify about how these evil people work in our society.

I have been keeping this inside me for many years. For so long, I have been mentally tortured and today finally I am coming out to speak voluntarily "because:"

1. My conscience is bothering me.
2. I am a God-fearing man and I want to tell the nation the truth.
3. I would like to help the country.
4. Right after Edsa II my family have been receiving death threats.

Knowing these evil people, I know this statement of mine can put me and my family into danger.

I know I am taking a big risk.

In fact I have consulted with my very close friends and they have told me that I am signing my own death certificate. But I believe one have to sacrifice to save millions of life.

Dear friends please listen to the truth. I am willing to hold the Bible. After listening I want you to make your own judgment.

Who are these evil people? Who are these enemies of the nation?

I am speaking of:

1. Erap Estrada. He blesses all the criminals.
2. Jinggoy Estrada, Mr. Gambler and blesses all the smugglers.
3. Ping Lacson *(utak)* meaning the brains.
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10. Arnie Tuadles: He was killed in 1996, Nov. 2 in Club 419 Greenhills. He was a nice man only his crime was that he was working for Atong and he knew all their criminal activities.

He was just like my brother. He used to advise me a lot and even he warn me to stay away from this group. Now I realize he (Arnie Tuadles) was right.

I am an Indian citizen. But I am a lawful permanent resident of the Philippines since 1979. I am married to a Filipina since 1982. We have three children ages 15, 8 and 4 years.

I came here without a subpoena from these committees.

I would like to testify on the following:

1. Their involvement in the illegal activity of Kuratong Baleleng, including kidnapping for ransom.

I refer to Erap, Ping, Atong, Renato Parohinog, Edwardo Villanueva and Jovel Arnan.

2. Gambling in casino:

I refer to Erap, Jinggoy, Atong, Quinting Llorente, Carding Dapat.

3. Their involvement in the Edgar Bentain disappearance.

I refer to Atong and Butch Tenorio of Pagcor.

Please allow me to submit to you sworn affidavit containing the details of what I just said. And I shall submit it to you next hearing because I didn't had a time to put all my materials together and to warn people concerned, including the kidnap victims so they can protect themselves and the family.

Thank you.

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(From page A1)

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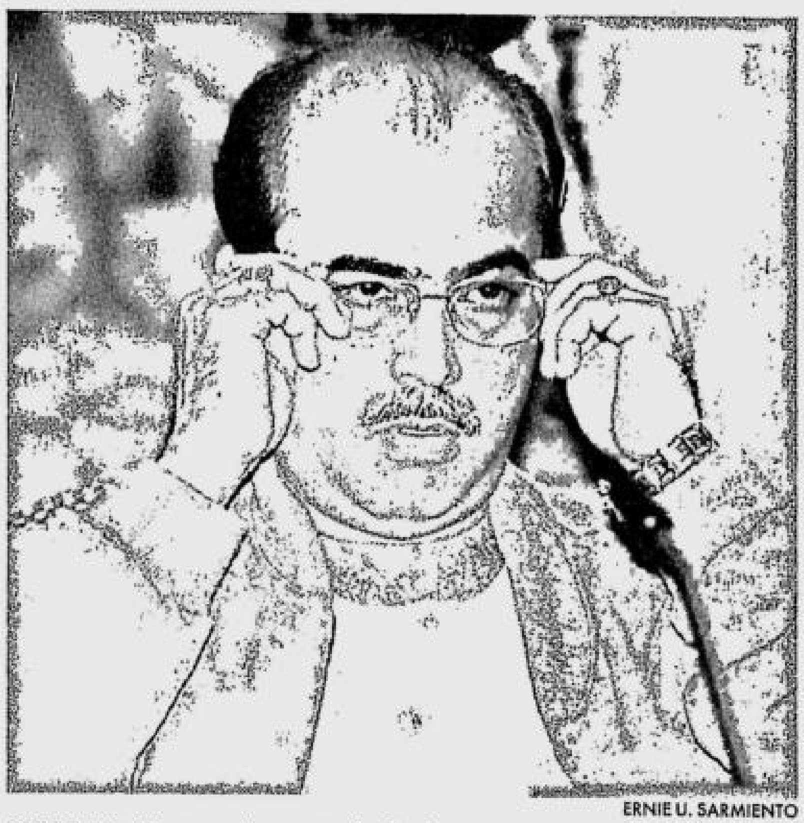

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He was just like my brother. He used to advise me a lot and even he warn me to stay away from this group. Now I realize he (Arnie Tuadles) was right.

I am an Indian citizen. But I am a lawful permanent resident of the Philippines since 1979. I am married to a Filipina since 1982. We have three children ages 15, 8 and 4 years.

I came here without a subpoena from these committees.

I would like to testify on the following:

1. Their involvement in the illegal activity of Kuratong Baleleng, including kidnapping for ransom.

I refer to Erap, Ping, Atong, Renato Parohinog, Edwardo Villanueva and Jovel Arnan.

2. Gambling in casino:

I refer to Erap, Jinggoy, Atong, Quinting Llorente, Carding Dapat.

3. Their involvement in the Edgar Bentain disappearance.

I refer to Atong and Butch Tenorio of Pagcor.

Please allow me to submit to you sworn affidavit containing the details of what I just said. And I shall submit it to you next hearing because I didn't had a time to put all my materials together and to warn people concerned, including the kidnap victims so they can protect themselves and the family.

Thank you.

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OPINION

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Late learner

EDITORIAL

MAYBE former Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez has finally learned the difference between right and wrong now that the Ombudsman has found some "deficiency in (the performance of) his duty as secretary." That was a lesson that some senators and a disgusted public tried to hammer into his head almost a year ago, when it was exposed that the education department bought 24 vehicles, including some sports utility vehicles that only the rich could afford. At first, Gonzalez boldly declared that he had done nothing wrong and rejected suggestions that he resign from the Cabinet. It was only after several senators and the media pointed out where he went wrong that Gonzalez very reluctantly said he was sorry for the "procedural lapses" and the "misunderstanding" brought about by the purchase of those vehicles.

From beginning to end, that transaction was flawed, both legally and morally.

First, the money was obtained through deliberate misrepresentation, apparently hatched by then Undersecretary for Finance Antonio Valdes. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports had requested the Land Bank of the Philippines for a P24-million donation for the purchase of computers and office equipment. When the money was released, the DECS deposited it in a special account and later used it to pay for the vehicles. Valdes justified the whole transaction by saying it was "a creative and legal means of acquiring vehicles."

Creative maybe, but legal it was not at all. The law requires that donations should be entered into the books of the government agency receiving them, but the DECS failed to do it. The law also mandates that donations be audited, but DECS officials didn't even bother to inform the Commission on Audit about the donation, much less submit the papers pertaining to the donation and the purchase of vehicles.

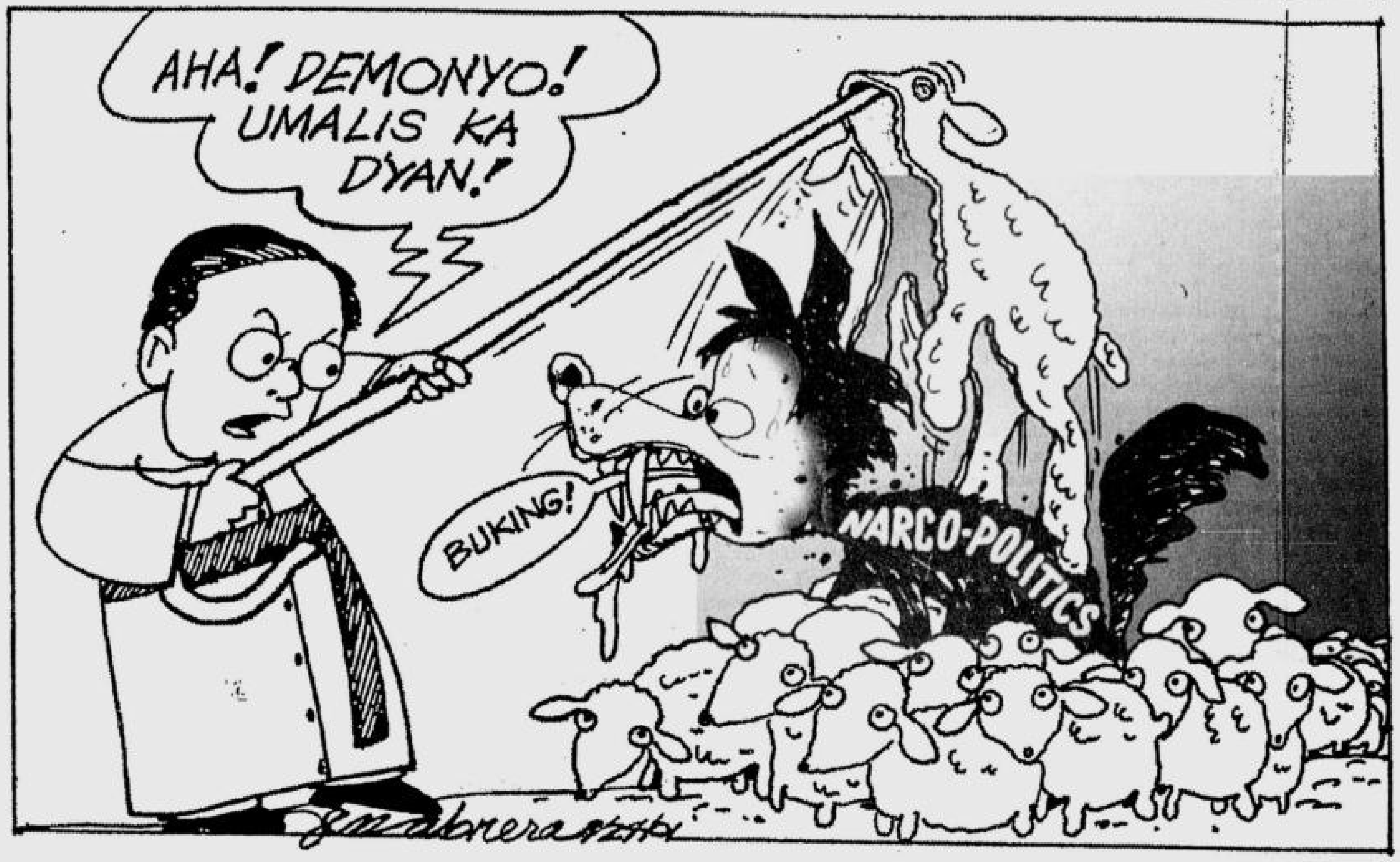
Then there was the budget circular that clearly identified the type of vehicle officials may buy. For the use of a Cabinet member, the circular allowed the purchase of a car with maximum displacement of 2,000 cc if the engine runs on gasoline. Smaller cars were to be assigned to lower-ranking officials, the circular said. Gonzalez bought for himself a Ford Expedition, which had an engine displacement of 4,600 cc. Valdes bought for himself a Cefiro, while three other undersecretaries each got a Pajero.

Gonzalez said he decided to buy the Expedition because it would last longer than a cheaper vehicle. He also chided critics who described as "luxurious" the vehicles that he and top education officials were using, saying what was luxurious is "just a matter of opinion." Spoken like someone to luxury born and who learned to love so much the perks and privileges of high office that he would later hang on to his post even as his confreres in the religious community marched in the streets to bring down a corrupt and morally bankrupt administration.

Apparently Gonzalez had a different idea of what constitutes luxury from a public that must make-do with taking smoke-belching jeepneys and buses every day. Quite simply, many people found it scandalous that the education secretary was driving around in a sports utility vehicle costing P1.7 million while millions of schoolchildren had to learn their lessons without books and without enough teachers and thousands attended classes out in the open for lack of classrooms.

Then Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who led the Senate investigation of the irregularity, said what the DECS officials did constituted technical malversation. But apparently Ombudsman Aniano Desierto looked at it differently. He cleared Gonzalez of any criminal liability but held him liable for not going "deep into the matter" and fined him the equivalent of six months' salary. Valdes was deemed guilty of grave misconduct and was ordered dismissed from the service and barred from joining the government in the future. Three other top officials—Undersecretaries Bartolome Carale and Victor Andres Manhit, and Assistant Secretary Manuel Mariano, were found guilty of committing acts "prejudicial to the best interest of the service" and also fined the equivalent of their salaries for six months.

However, all are gone from the service, swept away by the same tide that brought down the Estrada administration. Thus the ignominy of being fired or fined may have been softened by their relative obscurity now. Still, the Filipino people will welcome justice wherever they can find it, particularly when the influential and the powerful are involved. There have been very few instances when the proverbial long arm of the law has caught up with their kind. Maybe next time our justice system will get a bigger catch of big-time crooks.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Sex and the single firefly

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I NEVER realized that so many people pine for the sight of the lights of fireflies flickering in the darkness. Everywhere I go, readers remember the columns I wrote about fireflies and beetles in our park. I get a lot of mail, both electronic and the old-fashioned letter on paper, from people who say that the columns sent them back on memory lane thinking about the old days when they, as children, witnessed or even played with fireflies dancing in the dark. Readers from Antipolo and from the provinces as far as Dingalan Bay report that, happily, they still have fireflies.

This letter from a reader who didn't sign his name is perhaps typical:

"Your pieces on fireflies and beetles warmed my heart and kept me musing the rest of the day, my mind wandering to the past in my youth, wrapped in thought of those wonderful carefree days when the air we breathed was sweet and pure, the trees lining the street formed a canopy overhead, the sun never hot as it filtered through the leaves and walking to school and back was a daily exploration of nature and its bounties.

"I lived with fireflies and beetles every summer and on through the first quarter of the school year. Always awed by the fireflies lighting up our mango tree. Beetles were my playmates and a *salaginto* in my hand was a priceless trophy.

"I also cringed at hairy caterpillars crawling on sidewalks or hanging in cocoons from the trees, but I still made a game of it as I skipped and ducked these creatures that would eventually flit over the rose and gumamela bushes in my garden.

"In my golden years, I yearn for those marvelous days with a mixed feeling of ecstasy and distress for as the world turns so swiftly on its hi-tech axis, returning to that lifestyle is a pipe dream.

"Please forgive my anonymity. I am simply shy about being teased for my maudlin sentimentality."

* * *

Andrea O. Veneracion, choirmaster of the UP Madrigal Singers, sent me a copy of a Reader's Digest article on fireflies. "I remember you writing about fireflies and found it interesting that in your busy world of meeting deadlines, you can still find time to enjoy the fireflies, and your invitation for ordinary human beings to enjoy a sight only God can create."

The Reader's Digest article has so many interesting information. One is that fireflies live only for sex. One species, *Photinus ignitus*, "spends its entire adult life trying to connect with the opposite sex." Yet an adult firefly lives for only one to two weeks. That probably explains its preoccupation with sex. If you know you have only two weeks to live, what would you do with your life? For the firefly, the answer is clear: have sex.

And that's what they do, have sex. "They don't even eat; they just mate," says Sara Lewis of Tufts University who is studying the mating behavior of fireflies in a Massachusetts field. A rendezvous between a male and female firefly can last as long as eight hours (what stamina!). "Some fireflies spend two years underground as tiny larvae, then, in spring, create an igloo-like chamber in the soil and pupate," said the article. "Three weeks later they emerge as adults, bent on mating as many times as possible. But those who feel a twinge of species envy might reconsider: an adult firefly generally lives for only one to two weeks,, and male-to-female ratios, especially in early summer, are worse than at a military academy.

Entomology professor James Lloyd once glimpsed the mating odds in a species of Photinus fireflies. Following 199 males over 16 kilometers of flying, he counted 10,306 flash patterns—but only two females.

"Most people have probably never seen a female firefly," Lloyd says. "That's because males do all the flying. Females lie in wait, perched on blades of grass, the equivalent of bar stools in a singles bar. In the field, the male pickup line is all flash. With the air full of suitors, all blinking 'Here I am,' a female must distinguish males of her own species before flashing back."

Males that live long, however, will have their fill of females as summer winds down. Somehow, the male-female ratio reverses and females compete more aggressively for males. "You can do a penlight flash—a reasonable facsimile of a male Photinus flash—and you'll see 20 females answer," Lewis says. "Now it's the males who are picky, perhaps because at the end of the season it is harder for them to make spermatophores."

As in humans, too much sex has its dangers, however. Female fireflies are as devious and opportunistic as some of their counterparts in the human species. For example, the much bigger Photoris females mimic the flash of the smaller Photinus firefly (each species has its own pattern). When a male Photinus flashes his invitation, a female Photoris flashes a response to lure the unsuspecting male. Instead of mating with him, however, she has dinner, with him as the meal.

We may not have noticed it, but the color of the male fireflies' flashes differ. The light of a male *Pyractomena angulata*, for example, is candlelight orange. The patterns of the flashes also differ. Some double-flash. "Others, like *Photinus pyralis*, the so-called Big Dipper firefly, carve out patterns in the air, skywriting the letter 'j' again and again in sync with their half-second flash."

People lament that fireflies are not as plentiful now as they were during their childhood days. The reason is the destruction of their habitat. Firefly larvae are very site-specific. "They don't move much from where they begin life, so they are extremely vulnerable to suburban sprawl, lowered water tables, pesticide spraying and—Lewis fears—harvesting by chemical companies for their luciferase," said the Reader's Digest. "Luciferase, the enzyme that lights their fire, has become a much-sought after chemical extract, used in medical and agricultural research and bacteria-free food production."

So what can you do to make sure that fireflies will continue to light their fires in your backyard or your community? Preserve their habitat. Since firefly larvae spend as much as two years in the soil, burning leaves put them at risk. When you see fireflies, chances are that they lay their eggs nearby, so don't disturb the surroundings much. Grow trees and bushes in your backyards. If you have a community park, plant plenty of trees, bushes and grass there. That's how the fireflies came back to our community.

The other side of the coin

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

CAN people power be duplicated in other countries?

Not so, says Fidel Ramos, one of the pillars of the first Edsa. Asked during a gathering of Asian editors last Monday what lessons the popular uprisings in the Philippines might impart to other countries, he warned against other countries trying to import them. People power, he said, was "applicable only to the Philippines." This was so, he said, because "the Philippine style of democracy is different from other countries." It might not be perfect, it might even be defective, he said, but it allows expressions of people power to flourish.

Well, yes and no.

First off, while I do think we ought to be very proud of our accomplishments, I do not think we should feel we owe people power solely to ourselves. As many writers have pointed out, the spirit of Edsa draws deeply from the well of Mahatma Gandhi's *satyagraha*, or non-violent protest. It was Gandhi who first gathered the unwashed multitude to confront power, armed only with conviction and the willingness to die for it. That proved more powerful than tanks and mortars in the end, and brought "the empire where the sun never sets" to its knees.

Of course we enlarged on the concept and gave it whole new dimensions uniquely our own—that is our special talent, improvisation, which was how we transformed the jeep into the jeepney, and the attire of a subjugated people into the barong Tagalog—but we owe a debt of gratitude to the Indians there. If we can borrow creatively, so can other countries.

But true enough, the idea of the sovereign will of the people being expressed in the most breathtakingly direct ways and being capable of sparking dramatic changes in the political leadership of a country is not so readily applicable in other Asian countries today. It is certainly not easy to see how it will work in China, which saw the Tienanmen massacre greet a student rally a decade ago. Or in Burma where (as one Burmese told me last year) you have to show a license to own a personal computer—one person got arrested for not having it. Or even in Malaysia, where Mahathir has shown no compunction about crushing dissent and dissenters.

There are many reasons why people power has been successful in the Philippines and why it is not likely to prove as successful in other countries. Unfortunately, not all those reasons are a source of pride. Some are a source of shame.

On the upside, there is the fact that we have a less violent political culture, or one not naturally given to extremism. Of course some people will object to this and say that our elections have been some of the most violent in the world, the body count testifying to the bloodbaths that our foremost democratic exercise tends to be. And some will say that government has not always been loath to fire on unarmed demonstrators. That was the case before martial law when Malacañang guards opened fire on the Lapiang Malaya. That was the case during martial law when soldiers and Cafgus fired on the protesting villagers of Escalante. And that was the case shortly after Cory Aquino came to power when Manila's and Alfredo Lim's finest fired on a group of peasants storming into Mendiola Bridge.

These are certainly true, but these are minor compared to the "final solutions" other Asian countries have taken to solve their problems. Compared to the way the Khmer Rouge raised a mountain of bones at the altar of a new society. Compared to the way Suharto rounded up several million communists and kept them in Indonesia's version of Devil's Island. They are minor compared to other Asian countries' race riots, suicide bombers and bitter religious wars.

Maybe it's our religion, maybe it's our capacity to make light of things, but we have a culture that stays the hand even of tyrants in their moments of despair. That is what I think about every time I hear people tell me our problem is not we have not yet had a real bloodbath to make us remember and change our ways. I am always tempted to retort, "By all means let's have a bloodbath, but let us put **your** family first in line." It is no small blessing we are not prone to it.

On the downside, people power also shows something not particularly savory about us. People power has a dark side, too, which is that it is an act of contrition after resolute sinning, or it is an act of redemption after a life of dissolution. After the magnificence and drama of people power, you are always left with the question **why** it had to happen in the first place. The answer to which is simply that we were foolish enough to tolerate iniquity to reach such an utter pit that we were compelled to rise to end it for our own survival. The answer to which is simply that we were stupid enough to allow tyranny to rise and make our lives miserable again that we were forced to act to find relief.

I've always said that our problem is not that we are unwilling to die for democracy, it is that we are unwilling to live for it. That is also what people power represents. We are quite willing to rise to great heights at risk of harm to ourselves to end a tyranny but not to toil daily to make sure that tyranny doesn't rise to begin with. The reason we had Edsa II was that we never cherished our newfound freedom enough to wish to guard it every day of our lives. Having mounted the first Edsa, we went back blithely to a life of complacency.

That is what makes "the Philippine style of democracy" defective, to use Ramos' word. That is what makes it at once admirable and repugnant, at once resplendent and benighted: our ability to do the most heroic things during the last two minutes while playing miserably the rest of the game. Our ability to make one grand gesture to reclaim freedom, but not to struggle tenaciously to keep it.

The question isn't just if, it is also why. Why should the other Asian countries want to emulate something like that?

The Senate–the nation's laundry machine

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WITH MORE witnesses testifying at the Senate hearings, that chamber is at last settling down to the business of receiving evidence on allegations of money laundering and other illegal activities laid against Sen. Panfilo Lacson by Col. Victor Corpus.

Former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim is testifying on the links to VIPs (including Lacson) of the alleged drug lord Kim Wong; Corpus is introducing more evidence on drug-related activities moving the Philippines toward becoming a "narco-state"; and the National Bureau of Investigation is revealing its cooperation with US authorities in the effort to trace Lacson's alleged bank accounts overseas.

This redirection of the hearings is taking place amid fresh reports of illegal wiretapping activities of opposition people by the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force headed by Lacson during the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada. From these developments, the web of Lacson's entanglements in allegedly illegal activities is widening, and the Senate has come under strong public pressure not to exclude the surveillance reports from the scope of its inquiry.

Within a few weeks into the opening of Congress, the Senate has been transformed into the laundry machine of the nation, where the nation's dirty linen is being washed before the public eye. The Senate did not ask for this job, but since Lacson is at the center of the military intelligence and police investigation report on drug trafficking, it is caught with a live coal in its hands.

The attention of the nation is focused on how the Senate does its job of inquiring into the allegedly illegal activities of one of its members. This is the first time that the Philippine Senate is investigating serious and official allegations of wrongdoing by a senator. Since it has no precedent to guide it, the Senate is pulled by the demands for a fair inquiry and by the unwritten tradition of acting as an "old boys' network," to shield a beleaguered member who has found refuge behind parliamentary immunity and who has a platform for retaliating against his tormentors.

The Senate stumbled into this predicament while trying to rebuild the damage left by its subordination to Estrada and by its partisan vote blocking the disclosure of the envelope containing evidence on Estrada's alleged bank accounts.

In its effort to regain its historical prestige as an independent chamber inhabited by wise men, it took the path of indulging hubris and of demonstrating its punitive power to detain witnesses whose testimony offended Senate Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda.

In the past hearings, the Senate succeeded in projecting itself as a bully running berserk with its appreciation of its power. At least, this is how the public viewed the filibuster of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who flooded the Senate with gibberish for three days, to show that a senator, armed with the devastating weapon of the filibuster, could disrupt the business of the Senate.

Since the opening of Congress, the Senate has been doing the wrong things, without addressing its primary reason for existence—writing laws. It has managed to present itself as a chamber of inquisitors determined to shield one of its members under fire and to give priority to the task of flexing its muscles—not really against the executive department—but on witnesses it has invited to testify. When one testifies at the Senate on its summons, one is not standing on level ground. One faces a panel of the reincarnated Torquemada (the grand archon of the Spanish Inquisition) who can harass, abuse, bully and detain witnesses. They have no immunity from abuse. On the other hand, senators are clothed with a large mantle of immunity and privileges which gives them license to filibuster in the name of freedom of speech, regardless of whether they utter nonsense and waste public money with their salivary output.

With these acts, efforts by the senators to restore the integrity and independence of an institution compromised by its dalliance in the past with the executive, started on the wrong foot. There are in the Senate a good number of people with good minds, but there are also those who can reinvent the language by blurting out, in anger, words like *"propesterous"* in reaction to a testimony of a witness. This invention sent some people to search the dictionary if this word had something to do with basketball. Sometimes, silence is golden, but some senators cannot resist the temptation to participate in debate, but debate has its perils. If one does not have the equipment to perform the job of a senator, being tongue-tied is better than revealing what you don't have.

While the Senate is at last becoming less hysterical and has come to realize that a demonstration of power is the wrong approach to rehabilitate the chamber, there is a tendency to build conspiracy theories—shared by even the senior senators—that there is a "sinister hand" behind the allegations of Corpus and witness Angelo "Ador" Mawanay. According to this explanation, "faceless groups" were behind the testimony of Corpus and Mawanay "designed to destroy the credibility of the members of the Senate."

This explanation reveals a framework from which some senators view the Senate investigation. That framework starts from a conclusion—the conspiracy theory—and is not interested in getting into the bottom of the intelligence-police report on narco-crime activities.

This convoluted theory has the effect of diverting the focus of the hearing away from Lacson and of looking for scapegoats. The Senate does not have to look far, however, for culprits responsible for its diminished prestige and public esteem. Its members have only to review how senators compromised the Senate in the impeachment trial and how its sitting members have acted in the hearings in order to identify the "sinister forces" undermining the Senate's credibility.

Wong a Drug Watch benefactor?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FINALLY, we have heard from a non-government anti-drugs organization on the matter of the involvement of government personalities in drug dealing and trafficking.

But not in the way we'd expect.

In a story in this paper headlined: "Who's real Kim Wong? Why is he so rich?," former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, founder of Citizens' Drug Watch, was quoted as admitting that the organization had also benefited from Wong's largesse. Wong, if you will recall, has been accused by Isafp Chief Col. Victor Corpus as the alleged connection of Sen. Panfilo Lacson with Hong Kong-based triads engaged in drug trafficking.

Herrera said Wong had made T-shirts for the Citizens' Drug Watch upon the recommendation of former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, a board member of the organization. Lim, who admits to having known Wong at least since 1995 when the businessman donated campaign T-shirts to him, has since corroborated Corpus' charges against Wong.

For all we know, Wong may indeed be just a successful businessman with a penchant for making friends in high places. But should Corpus and Lim (and their source, Mary "Rosebud" Ong) be able to prove the alleged links between Wong and drug dealers, wouldn't it be a supreme irony if it turns out that Wong was a benefactor of the Citizens' Drug Watch?

And could that be the reason for the puzzling silence of the Citizens' Drug Watch before this? The way the revelations are going, I can't wait to hear from the leaders of MAD.

* * *

IN THE BOOK "Hot Money, Warm Bodies," coauthor (with Ellen Tordesillas) Australian journalist Greg Hutchinson writes that he was present at the impeachment hearing on the fateful day of the "no" vote on the second envelope. But he failed to notice Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta "doing a jig and waving her arms, in celebration of her victory," a scene TV cameras captured and beamed live nationwide. Sen. Greg Honasan was likewise seen "clench(ing) his fist and push(ing) it in to the air—also signifying his satisfaction with the vote."

A member of former President Estrada's defense team later reflected that "Senator Oreta's action more than any other image that evening sparked the public outrage" that led to the "spontaneous" gathering at the Edsa Shrine that led to People Power II.

Given its historical significance, it may thus be relevant to look into the reasons for Oreta's impromptu performance on the Senate floor.

According to a member of the "Never Again" e-group to which I belong, a daughter of the senator appeared on TV last Aug. 21 in a program commemorating the death of Ninoy Aquino. She was part of a panel together with Jackie Aquino (daughter of Butz Aquino) and Tarlac Rep. Noynoy Aquino (Ninoy and Cory's only son).

When asked for her views on her mother's "jig" that fateful night, the senator's daughter gave the following explanation:

* * *

ALL throughout the impeachment proceedings, the senator was deluged with text messages, e-mail, letters and phone calls very critical of her perceived stance regarding the charges against Erap. "Most of the calls/messages were so belligerent and angry that she was put on the defensive," is how the account goes. "Even while on her way to the impeachment hearings she would be accosted by angry crowds demonstrating outside the Senate. Their anger, instead of making her change her mind, actually made her dig in her heels and try to put up a brave front, as though she was unaffected by the crowds.

"On the day they voted not to open the second envelope, when the hearings were suspended, and as the crowds filed out of the Senate floor, there were some in the audience who were calling her names and showing their displeasure through their actions.

"Tessie Oreta said she lashed back at her detractors by throwing a jig and answering back with taunting words. One of her friends warned her that the cameras were still rolling, that she should stop her antics. Needless to say, her behavior was caught by the cameras…and the rest is history. Oreta says she was sorry afterwards about her behavior, but by then it was too late."

The "Never Again" correspondent says one lesson to be taken away from this account is that perhaps flooding officials with angry denunciations is not the most effective way of "winning their hearts and minds," if indeed that is what concerned citizens want. But as another member of the e-group remarked, perhaps it was all for the good that Oreta danced her way to history. Without her "antics," People Power II might not have been born at all.

* * *

THERE are really few secrets left to tell from the events leading up to, during and immediately after People Power II. So perhaps one way of explaining the brisk sales of "Hot Money, Warm Bodies" is not that the book contains explosive revelations, but that it compiles all the speculations, investigative findings, testimony and *chismis* in one volume.

Certain portions of the book read like they were hastily slapped together from columns, news stories and notes. But overall, "Hot Money" makes for breezy, fascinating reading. Indeed, the breathless pacing and juicy contents may prove so entertaining they may detract attention from many lessons and insights that the writers offer.

For one, Hutchinson writes, when Tita Cory remarked in the wake of credit-grabbing after People Power II that "there was enough credit to go around," "what a disservice she did to those millions of Filipinos who banged pots, beeped their horns, went to their city center plazas, flocked to the Edsa Shrine or stopped their cars helter-skelter at Quezon City's Katipunan, not on the say-so of her, Cardinal Sin, or anybody in particular."

"Why did no one question the readiness of those eager to grab or give credit?," asks Hutchinson. "Should not the question have been: 'Why should any credit be given, if in the final analysis, it belongs to the Filipino people?'"

Iconography, signs and symbols

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN thunder rolls in the sky and lightning flashes, one of my nieces covers her ears and presses herself closely to the nearest adult. As we cuddle her, we ask her parents how she developed this fear of loud noises. Nobody knows much except that she suffers a great deal on New Year's Eve and the storm season from July to September. Once, I thought of teaching her to invoke Santa Barbara who protects the faithful from thunder, lightning and earthquakes, but then she did not know about Santa Barbara. Worse, my mother explained that thunder was the result of St. Peter and his friends playing bowling in the heavens. Fortunately, her ears were covered and lola's explanation did not get through. Imagine having to unlearn a lot of homespun tales when she takes science class?

These days of rain, flood and traffic, I wonder who in the Roman Catholic roster of saints we should invoke to get us to our destination. In a secular age, less and less people are familiar with saints and how they are depicted in art. I have long wanted to teach a humanities course on iconography that would deal with signs and symbols that help us make sense of paintings from Greek and Roman mythology as well as Bible scenes and the lives of saints. Iconography is a sign language, a visual shorthand that opens up a wealth of symbols, a hoard of legend and dogma that lies hidden in early works of Philippine art. It is easy to appreciate a picture or sculpture on an aesthetic level, much more challenging to probe deeper.

Over 20 years ago, long before the Louvre museum in Paris was renovated, you would walk along squeaky floors to a very long gallery filled on both sides by paintings. In one section of this hall were painting after painting depicting scenes from Greek and Roman mythology. Here were gods and goddesses acting in very human ways. If you did not know the stories behind the pictures, the symbols in the painting, you lost part of the experience.

There was the Apple of Paris which he was to present to the prettiest of three jealous goddesses. By making one not very diplomatic choice, he irritated the other two. This apple later appears, Christianized, into the forbidden fruit of the Garden of Eden. It also reappears in the fairy tale about Snow White. The apple is not mentioned specifically in Genesis as the fruit the serpent tempted Adam and Eve to taste. Our only clue is that as soon as Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, they realized they were naked and clothed themselves with fig leaves. Could the fig be the forbidden fruit? One tradition says it was a Philippine mango!

Iconography enriches the way we see, read and understand works of art be they paintings or sculptures. When the early Philippine painters and *santo* makers made the artifacts we see in museums and private collections today, their art spoke to the people of their time. Today, much of their message is lost to us because a century later we do not understand the language of the pictures and images. The symbols are alien to us and we appreciate the works in terms of form, shape, color, etc. We may appreciate the work of art due to the skill of the artist or the six-figure price tag attached to it, but all our ways of seeing are not complete unless we know the stories behind the symbols.

When unidentified *santos* appear in the Ermita shop of Nora Ignacio, you see collectors trying to guess what a hand might have held, what the color of the clothing would have been, etc. All these details being clues to the identity of the *santo*. One even has to refer to the saints in their Spanish form—San Roque (St. Roche), Santiago Matamoros (St. James), etc.—and while at it we see other connections. St. Matthew the Evangelist is San Mateo Evangelista. To some, San Mateo is a place, to others Evangelista is either a common Philippine surname or the street in Pasay specializing in junk, car parts and used appliances. Bautista is also a Makati street and a common Philippine surname that we seldom relate with San Juan Bautista or John the Baptist (Baptizer?). Many of us will associate Aquino with Cory, Ninoy, or Kris rather than the hefty Dominican St. Thomas Aquinas (not Thomas the doubting apostle or Thomas More) but Santo Tomas de Aquino patron of the University of Santo Tomas better known as UST. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph a.k.a Jesus, Maria, Jose, have us say *susmariosep* or lately the even shorter form *sus*!

Names of the saints, the way they are portrayed from attitude to physical attributes, to size in relation to other figures are details that carry both sense and meaning. More importantly, iconography extends to the secular world too. In the realm of heroes, Rizal has his coat and Bonifacio, his *bolo*. In contemporary figures, Imelda Marcos has her shoes and signature hairdo; President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has her mole; Joseph Estrada has a wristband; Fidel Ramos has unlighted cigars and big ears; and Cory has eyeglasses and yellow dresses. In the future, editorial cartoons will be analyzed in the same way art historians dissect paintings because much has been reduced to sign and symbol, much will be lost and open to (mis)interpretation.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The immigrant

HIGH BLOOD

Minyong Ordoñez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

FEBRUARY 1995. Like a thunderbolt, the tragedy struck the happy life of Nuncia, my sister in Chicago. Her husband Manolo was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Nuncia cried for days.

When the sad news reached Kuya Ruding in Delaware, he took a hurried trip to stay with Nuncia's family.

Kuya Ruding is an uncle who is a pianist. When he plays the piano, he can vanish sadness and let happiness in.

"Sing! You're my Ella Fitzgerald!" he told Nuncia as he began to play the piano.

Instantly, the house was filled with music. Manolo and his two sons sat in the playroom, warming up to the lilt and sweetness of piano music—George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin—all so melodic and flowing, soothing their way into everyone's consciousness.

For days, friends and relatives came to pray. They brought food and laughter. Everyone went to the beat of Kuya Ruding's kind of piano music—boogie, chacha, and swing. Manolo became talkative, laughing at old jokes. Nuncia regained her noisy, bubbly self.

Manolo was a brave warrior. He talked to the Image of Jesus Christ at the altar. "Lord, I'm ready!" he announced coolly. He refused painkillers up to his last moments.

He died a holy death, blessed with sanctifying grace given by God through the Holy Mother and the Church in the sacraments of confession and last anointing.

Last February, Kuya Ruding came again when our Tia Aurora died of heart failure in New Jersey. We were all admirers of Tia Aurora's fabled industriousness. She grew up in the coconut farms of Misamis Oriental in the '30s, helping her parents in copra trading. As a young housewife during the hard years of World War II, I saw Tia Aurora many times join a caravan selling horses and carabaos, taking a whole day trip on foot to Pila, Laguna to barter coconut oil for rice, *lambanog* for *panutsa*—anything to keep the stomach safe from hunger.

Before she went to New Jersey in 1999, Tia Aurora managed to ship a dozen female cows from Cagayan de Oro for breeding in Majayjay, Laguna. How an 80-year-old woman transported a dozen cows across seas and land is mind-boggling.

Her daughters Estelit and Ching flew to the United States to grieve and fetch Tia Aurora's ashes. Relatives and friends from Chicago and New York came for the nine-day novena.

Look who's sitting on the piano! Kuya Ruding. "Sing! You're my Sarah Vaughn!" he beckoned Nuncia. Then music and songs filled the room. At the piano, Kuya Ruding's adroit fingers danced, rolled, tiptoed on the keyboards. Broadway songs. Some jazz! How about a *kundiman*? "Maalaala Mo Kaya." Soon laughter echoed through the room. Jokes were told. Tia Aurora's nieces and cousins came to pray for her soul, as Kuya Ruding's music helped banish the sorrow in everyone's heart.

Kuya Ruding, at 67, still projected the looks and moves of a music man. Long, gray hair falling to his shoulders, sharp facial features and a reed-thin frame that allowed his head and shoulders to sway to the beat of his music. His arms were long, his fingers were like those slim, round candles lighted at the gates of Baclaran Church. Like most artists, he was often reticent. It was his piano that expressed the fullness of his thoughts and feelings.

Kuya Ruding migrated to the United States with his family in 1971 after practicing surgery in Pasig. In 1986, I visited Kuya Ruding in his home in Seaford, a quaint small town in Delaware. After dinner he played the piano for me till midnight, every piece of music that I liked, from Debussy to Duke Ellington, from Elvis Presley to Paul McCartney, from George Canseco to Ryan Cayabyab. Between pauses, he waxed nostalgic, hankering for the hometown pleasures of Majayjay; *guinataang laing, pritong baculi, hinalo sa pasko, bayle ng flores de Mayo,* fiesta ni San Gregorio. He was Filipino to the core. He lamented the Americanization of his sons. "It's rare that my whole family got together for dinner," he said sadly.

Kuya Ruding's values were very Christian. He respected the sanctity of married life. I remember how confused he was when his father left his mother for another woman when he was still a student. He would skip classes and ask me to accompany him to search for his runaway father somewhere in Las Piñas.

In 1988, Kuya Ruding returned to the Philippines because his dying father asked for him. The visit was a meeting for forgiveness. He spent time with his father in the hospital and returned home to Delaware with peace in his heart.

We got together again last May in New York. We talked through the night, recalling our boyhood in the early '40s. Tia Angge, Kuya Ruding's mother, was a music lover and owned one of the rare pianos in town. Kuya Ruding was the only child in Majayjay who knew how to play the piano.

Music must be the simplest of all arts. All that's needed is a sound and an ear. And yet it's music that gives human beings its biggest pleasure.

I must have gotten my love for music from Kuya Ruding—way back when I was a little boy there in the sala of Tia Angge's house. Every Sunday after Mass, I would spend time sitting beside Kuya Ruding by the piano while he played "Chopstick" or the sprightly "Mabuhay March" or the haunting "Nasaan Ka Irog?" I would marvel at his sure and graceful fingers jumping or sliding through piano keys.

"How did you learn to play the piano?" I asked. "I really don't know, but I play by ear," he said. "One night, I dreamt the town's fiesta band playing a John Philip Sousa march and the melody got stuck in my mind. When I woke up, I sat down in front of the piano and the melody in my mind just flowed from my brain to my hands, into my fingers playing the keys as if guided by some invisible force. The melody came out of the piano exactly the way it sounded in my dream," Kuya Ruding recalled with amazement.

The next morning as we bid our goodbyes, Kuya Ruding was insistent about holding a big reunion of all relatives;. Tia Genia's children and grandchildren in Majayjay, Chicago, Indiana, Connecticut and Texas; Tia Angge's children and grandchildren in Mandaluyong, and Delaware; Tia Poten's children and grandchildren in Kalayaan, Liliw, Los Angeles and San Diego; the whole clans of the Gozos, Ordoñezes, Kabamalans, Rosases and Misticas—brown Filipinos or blonde *mestizos*.

"Our children and grandchildren are total strangers to each other," Kuya Ruding said with sadness in his voice.

"I want to play the piano for all of them," he declared.

Minyong Ordoñez is chair and CEO of Basic Advertising.

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Ador's detention was illegal

THE RELEASE of Angelo "Ador" Mawanay from Senate detention does not cure the illegality of the detention. First, the three Senate committees, namely the committee on public order and illegal drugs, the committee on national defense and security and the blue ribbon committee, are not the Senate itself. The power of contempt expressed through an order incarcerating a person can only be wielded by the entire Senate and not a fraction thereof. In the case of Arnault vs. Nazareno, 87 Phil. 29, it was the entire Senate which sent him to jail for contempt after approving the report of the investigating committee. In the case at bar, no such approval of the entire Senate was secured. In American jurisprudence only the entire Senate against whom the contempt has been committed has the power to hold a witness in contempt after approving the committee report recommending such punishment unless the committee is expressly authorized. (12 Am. Jur., 329)

Second, the reason why Mawanay was incarcerated is that he told the investigating committee in answer to a question of Sen. Loren Legarda that he cannot produce documentary evidence to support his allegation that he sold 1,000 cell phones to her and gave the check to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, then Philippine National Police chief, as the same were lost or destroyed during a flood. This question and answer are irrelevant to the subject of the inquiry which is to find out the truth of the allegation of Col. Victor Corpus that Lacson is guilty of money laundering, is involved in the murder of Bubby Dacer and Edgar Bentain as well as kidnap-for-ransom activities and drug trafficking.

Third, the grounds for imprisonment are arbitrary and capricious. Mawanay has already testified that the documentary evidence was lost during a flood in Caloocan City when his house was flooded and there is no showing that this is false. The order to produce the documents is requiring him to do the impossible. This is against the requirements of due process. "To satisfy the due process requirement, official action, to paraphrase Cardozo, must not outrun the bounds of reason and result in sheer oppression. Due process is thus hostile to any official action marred by lack of reasonableness. Correctly it has been identified as freedom from arbitrariness." (Ermita-Malate Hotel and Motel Operators Associations Inc. vs. City Mayor of Manila, 20 SCRA [1967] 849, 860)

Therefore, Mawanay is in the right track in filing a complaint for illegal detention before the Office of the Ombudsman against the eight senators who caused his detention.—**RAMON A. GONZALES, 5th Floor, J&T Bldg., Sta. Mesa, Manila**

DOE chief favors gradual hike in power rates

THIS is to clarify to you and your readers some points in the article published last Aug. 16, 2001 which reported that the government favors Meralco's raising its electricity rates.

The Department of Energy (DOE) does not advocate any power rate adjustments, as it has no authority to either approve or endorse any rate petition. The setting of power rates is the responsibility of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), an independent body, not with the DOE.

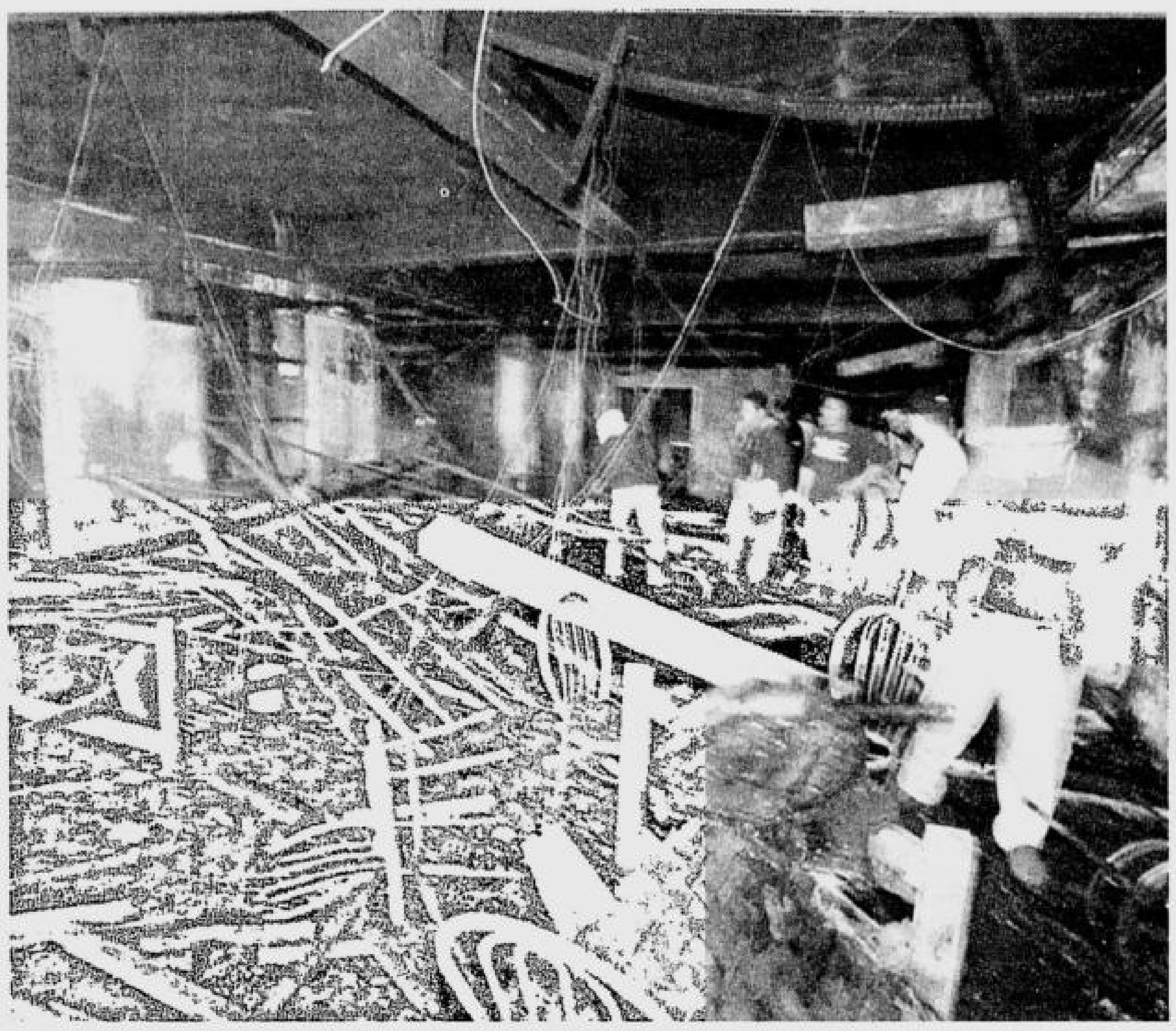
During the question and answer portion of a business forum sponsored by the BAP and Investment House Association of the Philippines recently, a stockholder asked me about the timing of the upcoming privatization of Meralco shares. I specifically expressed my personal view that it would be ideal if the sale of government shares in Meralco be made only after the newly constituted ERC has approved the rate hike petition. It was in no way an endorsement of Meralco's rate hike petition.

Should the ERC consider such a petition, I further elaborated that the DOE strongly advocates that it approve a gradual rate increase in small increments over time rather than a large increase, to soften its impact on consumers. This is consistent with the DOE policy of promoting small increments in any oil price increase. This was the very point I wanted to emphasize, but instead it was omitted and my earlier comment on market timing was taken out of context.

We sent a clarification the same day the misleading story came out, but this was published in only one of the dailies.

It is regrettable that my response was misconstrued and the more relevant policy on "gradualism" in any price increase was omitted.

Finally, I extend a personal invitation to call me should there be a need for a clarification on policy issues affecting the energy sector.—**VINCENT S. PEREZ JR., secretary, Department of Energy, PNPC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Manila**



To end the vicious cycle of fire tragedies

WE are deeply outraged by the Manor Hotel fire tragedy, and it reopened old wounds caused by the unresolved incidents of injustice and negligence related to the Ozone Disco fire and Payatas mudslide.

We hope that justice will finally prevail and something concrete will be done to minimize, if not totally eliminate, these tragedies caused by human greed and government officials' negligence and corruption.

We no longer trust the City/Municipal Engineer's Office or the various fire department inspectors to do their jobs efficiently.

I wish to recommend to all mayors and city and municipal councils the following actions to put an end to this vicious cycle of tragedies, investigations, whitewash and official amnesia:

- Create an independent task force on fire safety inspection with members to be drawn from the Society of Civil Engineers, Church (Catholics and non-Catholics), Safety Organization of the Philippines and other NGOs like the Rotary, Kiwanis, Jaycees, etc.
- Impose a 30-day deadline for the completion of inspections on all schools, government buildings, cinemas, hotels/inns, factories and commercial/industrial buildings that are three stories tall or higher.
- Don't give a 15-day or 30-day grace period for the building owners to remedy serious fire safety code violations; padlock them right after inspection!
- Publish in all major newspapers the names of establishments which have been padlocked for serious fire safety violations. We need political will and guts for this!
- For less serious and not so urgent fire safety code violations, no more than a 72-hour grace period should be given. Strictly implement the schedule of reinspection to check compliance with the safety measures recommended by the task force.
- Police officers should accompany the task force on reinspection dates, to enforce the sanctions for non-compliance.
- Enlist the support of the churches, parish councils, barangay tanod and even the ROTC cadets in implementing and monitoring the preventive/corrective measures cited by the task force.
- The city mayors should be seen also as personally making some inspection rounds and implementing the sanctions. Since they are very busy, this could simply be symbolic but it will surely send a strong signal that they are dead serious on their safety program.
- Institutionalize these and other measures to avoid the *"ningas cogon"* mentality and cure the official amnesia of government officials.—**REYLINDO E. ORTEGA, 29 Doña Binday Subd., Malinao, Pasig City**

Who was contemptuous of whom?

I WAS starting to regret not having voted for Loren Legarda in the elections of 1998 after her superb performance during the impeachment trial. I did not vote for her because I thought she was simply show biz, and to me, people from show biz don't deserve to hold public office, regardless of their qualifications. Nonetheless, I told myself that because of her conduct in the impeachment proceedings, I owed her a vote if ever she ran for a second term.

However, after her shameful Miriamesque and holier-than-thou actions during the first joint Senate committee hearing on the Sen. Panfilo Lacson controversy, I believe that my first instinct of not voting for her was entirely justified.

How can Legarda claim that Angelo "Ador" Mawanay was not telling the truth when he testified that he sold smuggled cellular phones to her? Who's to say that Mawanay was lying and Legarda was not? How can Legarda insist that Mawanay be detained for contempt? Where was the contempt? As far as I could see, there was nothing contemptuous in Mawanay's manner of answering Legarda's questions. On the contrary, what I found contemptuous was Legarda's reference to Mawanay as "that character." She did not even have the decency to address him respectfully and professionally.

Sure, Mawanay did not have the evidence to back up his allegations, but did Legarda produce anything to support her denials? It was his word against hers, and the only advantage Legarda had is that she holds a position of power.

The hearing as a whole was a disgrace. Lacson must have been laughing hard while watching it on TV, seeing his colleagues being sidetracked from the issue. The only commendable thing that happened during the hearing was Sen. Ralph Recto's attempt to question the basis for detaining Mawanay, although he could have done better by objecting outright to the detention order.

Elected officials think that they are more credible than ordinary people whose views are looked upon with scorn or, at the very least, indifference. The irony of it all is that these same objects of scorn and indifference continue to elect the same individuals into public office. It's a vicious cycle that can't be broken. And, unless we select our officials more carefully the next time, we will forever be stuck in a rut.—**ALLAN G. KATO, 2644 Molave St., UHV, Parañaque City**

Premature judgment of Loi Estrada's capacity

THIS is in response to the column of Rina Jimenez-David titled, "Senadora Loi is no women's champion" published last Aug. 15, 2001.

It is very unfortunate that David has already prejudged the senator as unfit for the chairmanship of the youth, women and family relations committee. This is premature, to say the least, since the committee is still being organized and the only way to measure whether she will succeed or not will be at least two years down the road after the committee shall have acted, sponsored and caused the enactment of laws beneficial to the women's sector.

In the interest of fairness, let us try to hold back our judgment and give her a chance to prove her worth by not making her committee chairmanship a reason for attacking her and her husband unfairly and bringing to life once again for the millionth time all the still unsubstantiated and yet to be litigated allegations that have been hurled at them.

All the slings and arrows hurled at Senator Estrada are matters best left to her and her Creator. It is not for us to judge.

We also find disturbing David's condemnation of former President Estrada and Senator Estrada over "scandals" that to this day have remained mere charges and "allegations" of Gov. Chavit Singson.

We are under the impression that David has taken the yet-to-be-proven allegations of Singson as gospel truth. We find it unfortunate that she has apparently forgotten the democratic principle of due process which says that an accused is deemed innocent until proven otherwise.

We cannot fail to note that David already convicted Senator Estrada when she pointed out that the senator "was not really an innocent bystander" in these "nefarious activities." When she mentioned that Senator Estrada's name has surfaced in a number of irregularities, she especially cited "allegations of million-dollar accounts" made by Col. Victor Corpus. But David forgot to mention that even Corpus failed to name the banks and the account numbers of said deposits. Up to now, no document or any shred of evidence has been presented to support these allegations.

David also failed to give space to the official statement from reputable international banking institutions mentioned by Corpus describing the alleged multi-billion deposits as "non-existent."

Winston Churchill once said: "In war, one gets killed once, but in politics, one gets killed many times.'

Former President Estrada, his wife and family have been killed many times, not in the courts of law but before the bar of public opinion. They have been humiliated before the world in a media frenzy fraught with biased and partial inclinations and preferences.

As Christians, the least we can do is raise, not kick to death our brothers in faith when they have fallen and wait for the courts of law to decide their fate based on facts and evidence.—**RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ, chief of staff, Office of Sen. Loi Estrada, Suite 302 Heritage Center, 1851 Vasquez St., Malate, Manila**

Housing program: Underfunded, poorly targeted

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos

Institute on Church and Social Issues

IT has been almost a month since we listened to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's first State of the Nation Address and still the richness of the promises she made in that speech continue to make us hopeful but anxious at the same time. Judging from that Sona, the President is giving a strong emphasis on the provision of housing services as part of her anti-poverty program. Of the social services the government is expected to provide to the poor, housing has historically been the most underfunded, compared with say education and health. Of course our education and health expenditures have also lagged behind actual need. But while education gets the biggest share of the national budget, government spending on housing has never in all these years exceeded one percent of the national budget.

Part of the reason for government's underfunding of housing provision is that the biggest sources of housing funds are actually private. They come from the government managed pension funds: Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and Pag-IBIG. When the President announced in her Sona that she is committing P20 billion annually for housing, this amount is really to be sourced from the three government financial institutions (GFIs). What is just as important as the amount of money being allocated for housing by these institutions is therefore how these resources can be accessed by those who need the assistance the most.

The President is probably aware that housing assistance in the form of housing loans given to home buyers through the SSS, GSIS and Pag-IBIG do not really reach the very poor who should be the main beneficiaries of her anti-poverty campaign. The P20 billion is expected to benefit mostly low-salaried and middle-income public and private employees who are SSS, GSIS and Pag-IBIG members. So in her Sona, she made it a point to promise something to the poorest of the poor, the class to which Jason, Jomar and Irwin, the three paper boat letter writers, belong. For them, the President promised to provide 150,000 urban poor families each year with security of housing tenure. How she intends to implement this promise is really the big question.

Perhaps one way of approaching the issue is to first look at how government housing assistance has fared in the past in terms of reaching the poor. The biggest message of the Sona was that the fight against poverty was going to be the overriding goal of this administration. Taking this message to heart means that all the major programs of the government would be firmly focused on making a dent in poverty. If this were so, we need to ask ourselves how far previous government programs have benefited those we consider or who consider themselves to be poor.

The World Bank has just recently put out a report titled, "Filipino Report Card on Pro-Poor Services," which has a chapter on housing services. The report is based on a national survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations in March to April 2000 to gather feedback on people's awareness, access, use and satisfaction with government-provided services. There are some interesting findings relevant to our present discussion on housing.

One is that although half of those surveyed considered their present housing as inadequate, unsatisfactory or in need of major improvement, existing housing services both by government and private institutions, reach only 10 percent of the population. Of this 10 percent, less than half actually end up getting an approval and availing of the housing assistance sought.

Taking only housing assistance provided by government, a big majority (95 percent) of the beneficiaries of such services have been urban-based households, while 47 percent came from the richest 40 percent of the population, 32 percent from middle-income households and only 21 percent from the poorest 30 percent. This reveals that the bulk of government housing assistance (79 percent) is being captured by better-off urban households.

What these findings easily suggest is that government housing programs are very poorly targeted. The Report Card provides us with some clues as to the reasons for the apparent bias in favor of urban, non-poor households. Very prominent among the reasons given is the lack of information on housing assistance programs in general and how to access them. Other factors include eligibility requirements which do not fit the characteristics of most poor households and prohibitive transaction costs associated with applying for housing assistance, such as traveling to Manila where most central offices are located, filling out complicated forms and tedious follow-up visits to housing agencies.

These factors alone make for a very strong case for decentralizing application procedures to allow for the processing and approval of applications at the regional, even local government, level. They also indicate the need to coordinate more closely with local government units, and deputize them if needed, in order to effect a wider yet more focused distribution of housing assistance in favor of the urban and rural poor.

Going back to the President's promise in the Sona to provide 150,000 poor households with security of tenure every year until 2004, there is a great deal of room to strengthen existing programs (such as the highly successful Community Mortgage Program) or craft new ones to meet this admittedly ambitious goal. But the key is careful and systematic targeting. The housing agencies must acknowledge the fact that their existing policies and ways of implementing their programs have made them miss the mark all these years. Major policy revisions and reengineering of their service delivery systems must take place. If they should insist on simply carrying on with their programs the way they have done in the past, there is no way President Macapagal can make good her Sona promises for the poor.

Reforms in the SSS must continue

I HAVE read Amando Doronila's analysis of the problem in the Social Security System. I am very concerned about the future of this institution.

I am a retired SSS pensioner. I have contributed to the SSS from 1954. It disturbs me that the mismanagement of the SSS might adversely affect the future benefits due me. I, like all other SSS contributors have a stake in this issue.

In his column Doronila said that former SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II initiated reforms, like transparency, reducing the time for the processing of SSS benefits, cutting the fat salaries of selected senior executives and subjecting to audit questionable behest investments. However, Nañagas became the victim of "rabble power," as Doronila put it.

I feel that Nañagas was unjustly removed. He was a great loss to the SSS program.

I certainly welcomed the reforms which he tried to put in place. I call on the new SSS president, Corazon de la Paz, to continue the reforms initiated by her predecessor. And I call on all SSS members to rise up in her defense should there be another "rabble power" to protest such needed reforms. We who are the contributors and the beneficiaries of the SSS should be the first to be concerned about the healthy management of the institution. (I wonder if the SSS employees who so vehemently protested against the reforms are themselves members to the SSS, or are they members of the GSIS?)

People power is not a reliable gauge in determining the culpability of any person or the correctness of a program.

There was another person who tried to initiate reforms, but "rabble power" pressured a weak governor to convict Him. This man was crucified for his heroic efforts. Will we ever learn?—**MILA BENEDICTO, 12 Waling Waling St., Capitolville, Bacolod City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Touchdown: 3 spacefarers back

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—Space shuttle Discovery glided to a landing, bringing home three spacefarers who spent nearly six months aboard the international space station.

Russian cosmonaut Yuri Usachev and his American crewmates, Susan Helms and Jim Voss, were weak and wobbly after spending so much time in weightlessness but managed to walk off the shuttle, instead of being carried off on stretchers.

"I feel like I've run a marathon almost," Voss said several hours later. "I'm very tired and I'm sleepy."Helms felt as though she weighed 225 kg when she first stood up, but was doing much better than she expected.

Usachev also surprised himself: He felt better than when he returned from two long Mir missions.

"Maybe it's just emotional," Usachev said with a smile. "Maybe tomorrow I will feel worse."

Their homecoming was delayed one and a half hours by dark clouds and rain near the landing strip. When Mission Control finally gave Discovery clearance to land, the three former space station residents cheered so loudly that the four other crew members, seated upstairs, could hear them without the intercom.

The midafternoon landing ended a 167-day mission for Usachev, Helms and Voss, just 21 days shy of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space endurance record. They circled Earth about 2,600 times and logged 113 million kilometers during the adventure.

About 300 people gathered along the Kennedy Space Center runway to welcome back Discovery and, in particular, the space station's second resident crew.

Among the well-wishers: the wives and daughters of Usachev and Voss and the parents of Helms, who is single.

"I told my wife I missed her and then I told my daughter, who was crying, that I was OK," Voss said. "I was surprised that she was a little bit emotional about my return. But I was, too."

Shuttle astronaut Daniel Barry said the reunion "made my heart beat fast."

"When they came in the door and they walked under their own power into the room and everybody just cheered and tears of joy and everything, it was amazing," said shuttle commander Scott Horowitz.

The three former space station residents face at least six weeks of medical tests and rehabilitation, beginning immediately. They had to endure the first round of tests before they could satisfy their cravings—a salad for Helms, hamburger for Voss, and steak and cheese for Usachev. Voss was the only one without much of an appetite.

Despite daily exercise in orbit, their muscles and bones were weakened by weightlessness and their immune systems were depressed. Barry said they seemed surprisingly fit.

"It was obvious to me how much time and effort they have put into staying in shape," said Barry, a specialist in rehabilitation medicine. "By their appearance coming off the orbiter, that is going to pay off big-time."

To ease the jolt of gravity, Usachev, Helms and Voss came back lying on reclining seats. Doctors and rescue crews were standing by to help them off the shuttle, just in case. Usachev welcomed the assistance. *AP*

MEGAWATI IN CAMBODIA REUTERS

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri reviews an honor guard after her arrival at the Phnom Penh airport on Aug. 23. Megawati will spend two days on an official visit in Cambodia.

Singer faces probe over song parody

JAKARTA—Police plan to question an entertainer who performed a song that authorities claim pokes fun at Indonesia's government and national symbols.

The move raises fears that newfound freedoms of expression might be fading just one month after former President Abdurrahman Wahid was impeached and replaced by new head of state, Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Harry Roesli, a recording artist and actor, sang a satirical version of the patriotic song, "Garuda Pancasila," during independence day celebrations at Wahid's home on Aug. 17.

Police spokesperson Col. Anton Bahrul Alam yesterday said the lyrics appeared designed to spread "hatred and hostility" against the state, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of seven years in prison.

"It's time that the supremacy of the law be upheld. People can't ridicule state symbols," Alam said.

The song parodies a tune about Pancasila, the philosophy of national unity, and the Garuda, a mythical eagle that is Indonesia's state symbol.

Roesli denied any wrongdoing and said the song simply calls on the government to help the poor.

"Clearly, the tolerance of freedom of speech is narrowing," he said yesterday.

Roseli said the satirical song has been around since the fall of ex-dictator Suharto in 1998. He has performed it several times in public and it is also often sung by street entertainers, without raising ire of the authorities. *AP*

Lost British girl dies of hypothermia

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia—An English girl who died while being lost for a week in high winds and near-freezing temperatures on Southeast Asia's tallest mountain perished from hypothermia, police yesterday said.

Doctors performed an autopsy on the body of Ellie James, 17, of Cornwall, after she was brought to Queen Elizabeth's Hospital Wednesday night following a day-long struggle to carry her down from wind-scoured Mount Kinabalu.

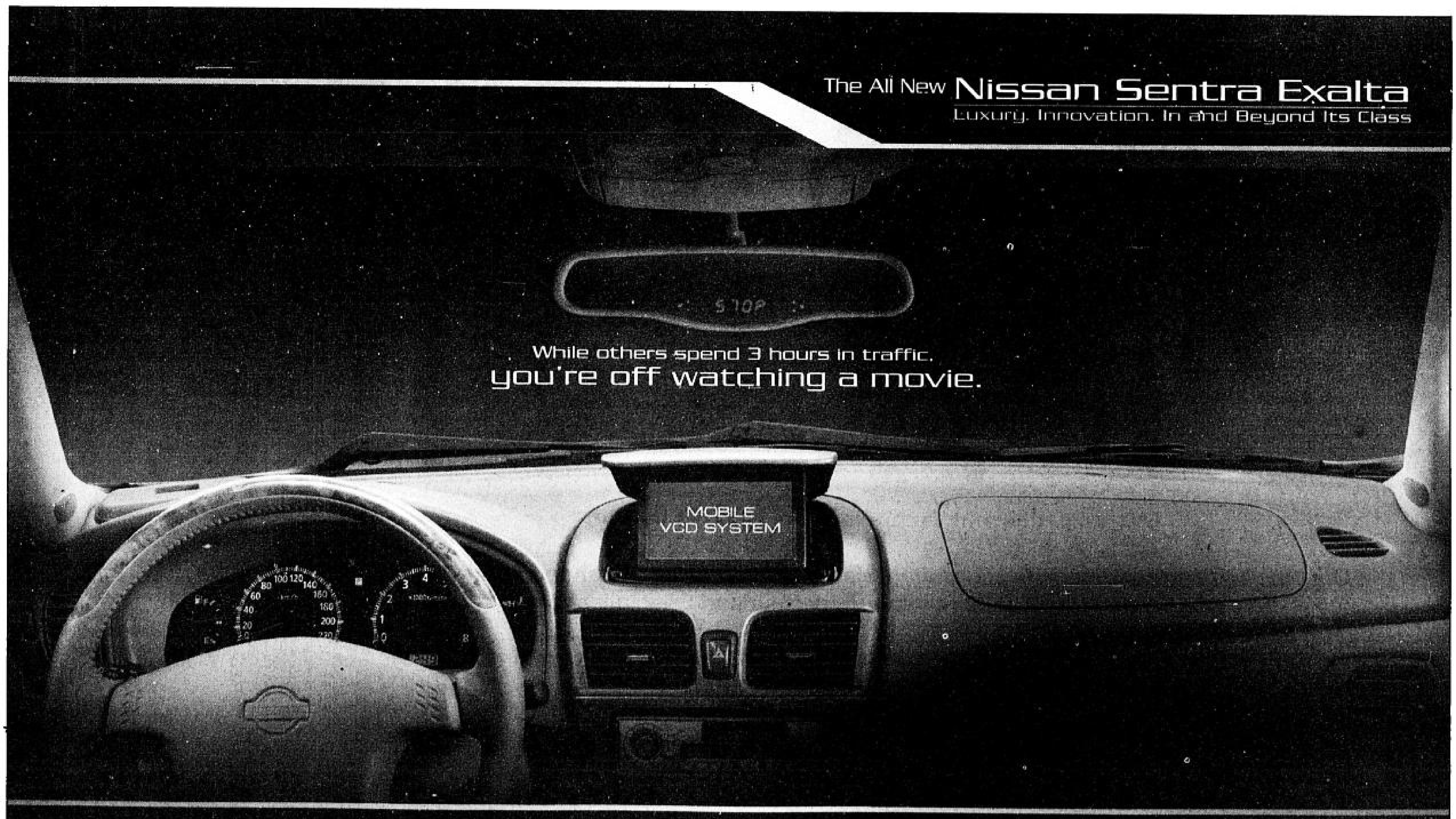
Local Police Chief Zul Baharin Ismail, citing the pathologist's report, said that James had no broken bones and appeared to have been dead about three to four days before her body was located near the peak of the 4,101-meter mountain.

She was 500 meters from the spot where she had told her brother, Henry, 15, to wait while she went for help after they became separated from a British trekking party Aug. 16 that included their parents and another brother. Henry was found six hours later.

James was never seen alive again. A guide, Richard Adi, had said he heard cries for help at the outset of what became a weather-cursed search involving 70 rescuers, but he was unable to pinpoint the shouts.

Zul said that James' parents, who were in Kota Kinabalu, about three hours' drive from the mountain, were free to reclaim the body. Police are expected to wind up their investigations within three days.

"We will continue to record the statements from the search team, the person who found the body, maybe even the rangers to determine how she was found, and how she died," Zul said. *AP*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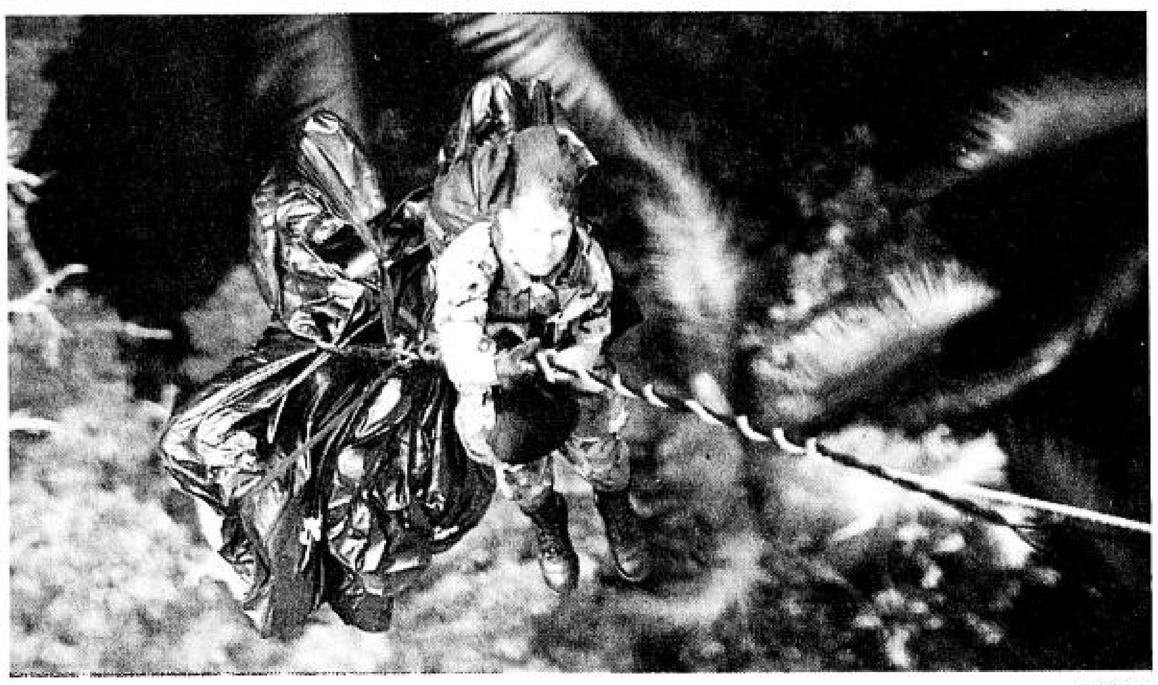


BODY BAGS

REUTERS

A Colombian soldier is carried by a Black Hawk helicopter in Puerto Saire on Aug. 22 with bodies of leftist rebels in a black pack.

Court OKs extradition of former cocaine boss

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombia's Supreme Court has approved a US request to extradite Fabio Ochoa, one of the highest-ranking former members of the violent Medellin cocaine cartel.

The decision Wednesday, pending its expected approval by President Andres Pastrana, paves the way for the most prominent extradition of a Colombian drug suspect since the 1980s.

Ochoa, once a close associate of the late Medellin cocaine boss Pablo Escobar, was one of 31 people arrested in Colombia in an October 1999 crackdown on alleged members of a major new cocaine smuggling operation.

"We believe this is a major, major drug trafficker who is going to face criminal justice," said Leo Arreguin, the chief in Bogota of the US Drug Enforcement Administration, which helped Colombian authorities to track down Ochoa.

Should Pastrana sign the extradition papers, Ochoa would be flown to the United States, where he faces a Florida indictment for his alleged role in an international syndicate said to have been shipping 30 tons of cocaine a month to the United States via Mexico.

The Supreme Court also approved extradition for two other drug suspects captured in the crackdown known as Operation Millennium, Jairo Mesa Sanin and Mario Sanchez Cristancho.

The president has 15 days to approve or reject the extradition. The suspects are then entitled to a final appeal to the government that must be decided within 10 additional days.

Legal experts said Ochoa was unlikely to avoid US justice.

Seeking improved ties with the United States, Pastrana resumed extraditions two years ago after a 10-year hiatus and has approved the handovers of 27 Colombians to American authorities. Ochoa and two older brothers were major figures in Escobar's now-disbanded Medellin cartel.

Ochoa, the baby-faced son of a prominent horse-breeding clan, was the first major Colombian trafficker to hand himself over to authorities in the early 1990s under a deal that promised he would not be extradited for past crimes. *AP*

23 sentenced to prison for Xmas fire

SHANGHAI, China—Under the central government's scrutiny, authorities in central China have sentenced 23 people to prison terms of up to 13 years for a Christmas fire in a disco that killed 309 people, a court official said yesterday.

The Intermediate People's Court in Luoyang, a city in Henan province, ended its trials last week but didn't release rulings until judges had consulted with government leaders. Nine of the defendants were tried in another Luoyang court.

The longest sentence went to Wang Chengtai, a welder blamed for igniting the blaze in the basement of the Dongdu Commercial Building, a shopping mall in Luoyang, said a court official who gave only his surname, Zhao.

An investigation immediately after the accident said sparks from Wang's welding torch set fire to wooden furniture stored in the basement. Wang and other workers escaped, but smoke suffocated guests at a Christmas party in the mall's fourth-floor disco.

The fire was the second deadliest since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, according to state media, and it came amid a series of fatal accidents that focused official attention on public safety.

"The severe sentences given to them demonstrate the Chinese government's strong determination to stop the all-too-frequent occurrence of safety-related tragedies nationwide," the government-run Xinhua News Agency proclaimed in announcing the verdicts yesterday.

Two managers of the Dongdu Commercial Building, Wang Ziliang and Wang Lei, were sentenced to nine years in prison, Zhao said. Local reports at the time said the building had failed 18 safety checks in two years.

Investigators blamed locked emergency exits for the heavy casualties. They said the exits were closed to prevent people from sneaking into the party without paying. *AP*

Accounts of rebel groups frozen

KARACHI, Pakistan—In what is becoming a major government assault on militant Islamic groups in Pakistan, the State Bank of Pakistan yesterday froze the accounts of two outlawed militant groups.

As well police sealed 24 offices of militant guerrilla groups waging war against Indian soldiers in Indian's half of Kashmir, a scenic Himalayan state divided between the two uneasy neighbors.

The State Bank order freezes the accounts of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a militant Sunni Muslim group and Sipah-e-Mohammed, a militant Shiite Muslim group. Both organizations have been implicated in vicious religiously motivated attacks against places of worship, public gatherings and individuals.

Police also arrested several leaders of other sectarian groups also believed to have been involved in the relentless religiously motivated attacks that have left hundreds of people dead in Pakistan, most of them members of the country's minority Shiite Muslims.

The crackdown, which began on Wednesday, follows a promise from Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf to stop sectarian killings and enforce orders to Islamic guerrilla groups to stop public fundraising and public displays of militancy.

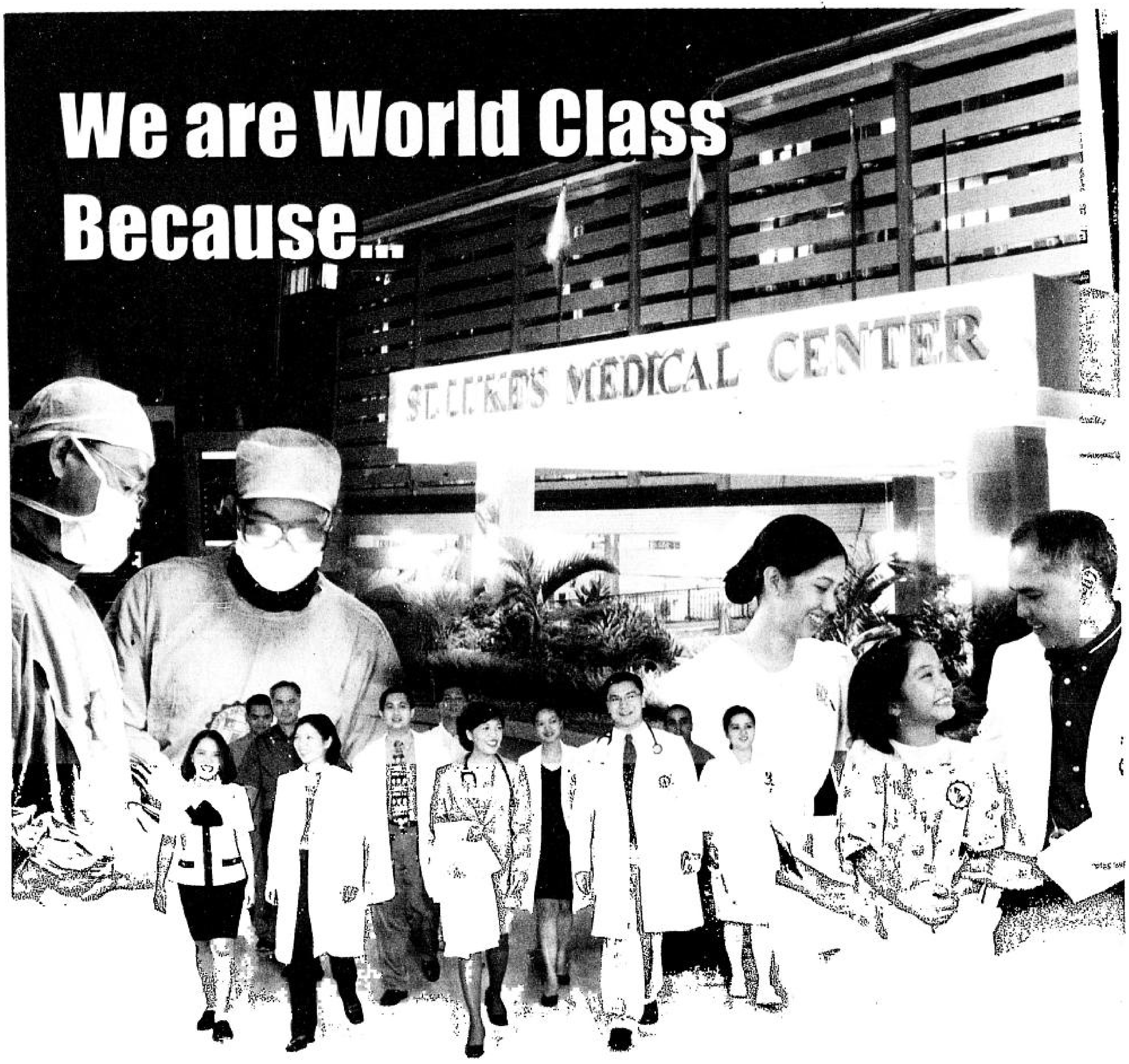
While the military government has banned two sectarian organizations, it has not so far ordered any of the guerrilla organizations outlawed.

However it did arrest more than 200 of their fighters in raids on Wednesday. Police said may of those arrested had since been released with a warning to follow the new orders and end their public fundraising's.

Banners that have been visible throughout Pakistan urging the young to jihad or holy war are also ordered removed.

Musharraf and his Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider earlier said the public display of militancy was giving Pakistan a bad reputation and discouraging public investment.

The crackdown has been centered in Pakistan's southern Sindh province of which Karachi is the capital and is Pakistan's main commercial and manufacturing hub. *AP*



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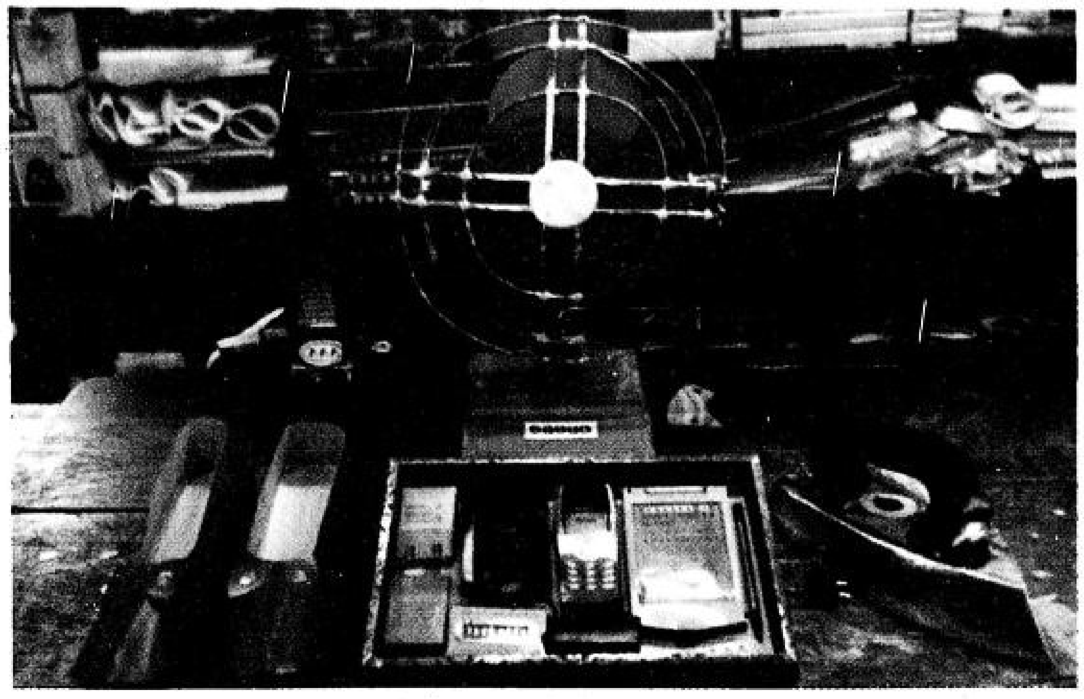


AN ASSORTMENT of fake goods made from paper, including a Palm Pilot, are on display in a Hong Kong paper model shop. The objects are burned during "Ghost Month" held from Aug. 19 to Sept. 16. AP

Hong Kong keeps up with ghostly tradition

But paper models to be burned are dying art

HONG KONG—The gates of hell open just once a year, according to the Chinese lunar calendar—a time to offer symbolic gifts to make the afterlife a little easier for roaming ghosts.

Intricate paper models of ostentatious gifts—gold bars, fake teeth, mobile phones and money from the "Bank of Hell"—are burned as a way of passing them on the spirit world. But the ancient custom is changing somewhat, as fewer local artisans learn the delicate craft and more people worry about the fires—which can grow up to 6 feet high.

The paper offerings, along with prayers and food, are intended to appease sprits who are released from the underworld during the seventh month of the Chinese lunar calendar—Aug. 19 to Sept. 16 this year.

Throughout mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, open-air variety shows and Taoist or Buddhist ceremonies are held in honor of the dead—with the most elaborate ones staged at the Hungry Ghost Festival on Sept. 1.

According to a Chinese fable, there is no food in hell, so hungry ghosts are greeted with public feasts—incense, chicken, fruit, pork and rice—at makeshift roadside displays.

Flashier gifts can be bought at Hong Kong's specialty paper shops. To help spirits keep up with fashion and showcase their wealth in the afterlife, surviving loved ones can burn hell money, computers, televisions, clothing, beauty products, guns, cigarettes, chocolate—even expensive cars, jets and houses, with servants to go with them.

Shopkeeper Pang Yuk-ying keeps all of this and more in her tiny Hong Kong store, and she will patiently help customers find the perfect gift.

"Does she prefer a long-sleeved dress or a sleeveless one?"

Pang asked a woman who was browsing for a departed relative.

"This one is cheaper as it's made in mainland China. Or she can try a Hong Kong one," said Pang.

Though the custom is still widely followed, the traditional art of making the paper gifts is somewhat threatened in Hong Kong by the abundance of cheap imports from mainland China. There has also been a rise in complaints about the smell and size of the fires.

"When our customers start burning paper models in designated box-shaped burners at roadsides, some residents nearby would quickly call the firefighters," said one veteran model maker, Ha Chung-kin.

Ha said the government here was doing little to appease safety concerns. Whereas Singapore's environment ministry provides burners for the paper models—equipped with new lids this year to cut down on ash flying out of the fires, Ha said the Hong Kong government merely asks people to burn smaller items or to refrain from the practice.

The custom of burning such gifts is believed to have started shortly after the Chinese invented paper about 2,000 years ago. It differentiated ancient China from other cultures emphasizing human sacrifices, said Lai Chi-tim, a religion professor with the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Ha said the tradition began with a Chinese man who wanted to offer his deceased mother some meat but was reluctant to kill any animals. He resolved it by offering paper pork and chickens.

"We make anything you can find in this world," says 66-year-old Au Yeung Wai-kin, waving his hand at clusters of models wrapped in plastic bags, hanging from his ceiling.

Au Yeung made his first piece 43 years ago—a traditional white crane said to beckon spirits during funerals and Ghost Month ceremonies.

The models, artfully constructed from colorful paper, yarn, bamboo strips and flour glue, are not expensive: Gold bars and million-dollar bundles of money are the cheapest, at about 13 cents each, while a bulky, outdated desktop computer goes for $25.

Packages bought by Taoist temples for more elaborate ceremonies may include black-uniformed ghost police, soldiers, servants, cranes, bridges and other accessories, and can cost more than $1,300.

"It's an art that requires sensitivity and handwork," said Ha, 40, who has spent his past 20 years on model making.

But the cheap imports from mainland China have discouraged many of the Hong Kong artisans who practiced the traditional craft. Only a few masters remain in Hong Kong, making larger, more delicate pieces, Au Yeung said.

"The art isn't worth much," said Kwan Hoi-shing, 76, a model maker for 61 years, who estimates he makes about $15,600 a year. "Who wants to pursue it when it's difficult to learn and worth so little?" *AP*

13 killed in Tamil attack

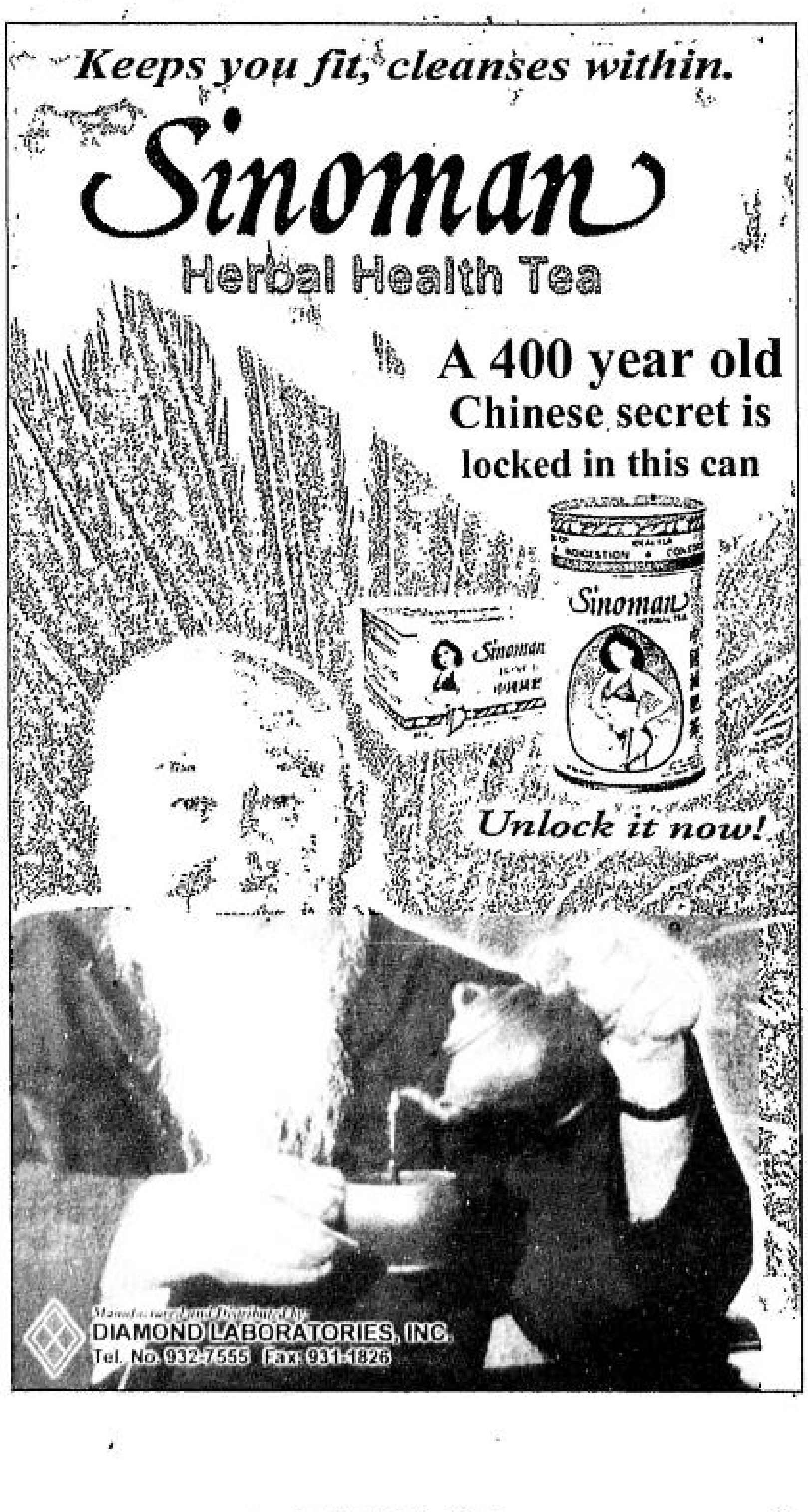
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday attacked two seaside military camps of the Sri Lankan Army, killing seven soldiers and wounding 11 others, the defense ministry said.

Six rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were also killed when soldiers retaliated with the help of the Navy in the fighting that broke out just after midnight, said defense ministry spokesperson Brig. Sanath Karunaratne.

The camps are in the northeastern parts in the country where the rebels have increased their operations in the past weeks.

The rebels are fighting to divide this small island nation off India's southern tip on ethnic lines, saying the Tamil minority can prosper away from domination of the Sinhalese who are 14 million of the country's 18.6 million people. Tamils are 3.2 million. The government, however, denies the charge.

Over 64,000 people have died in the 18-year-old civil war. *AP*



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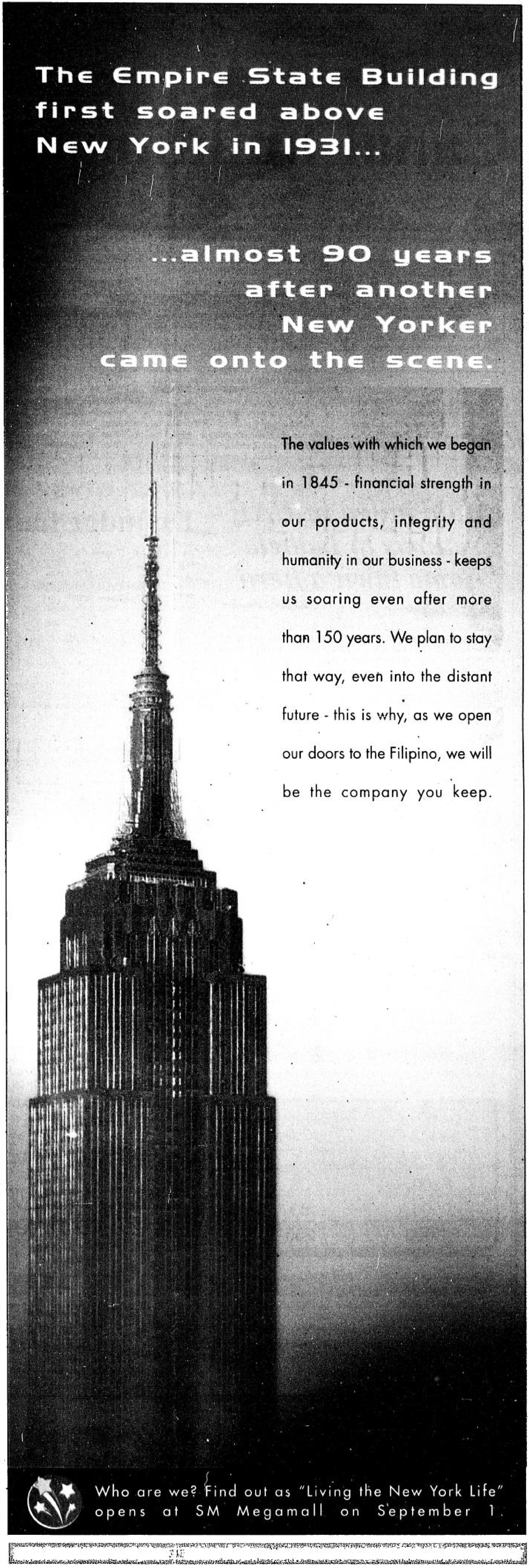

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Canal-building continues

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAPAS, Tarlac—"*Misasaupan king kasakitan* (Helping each other amid adversities)."

Holding on to this indigenous value, 50 Aetas from Botolan, Zambales, and 50 others from Barangay Sta. Juliana here converged at the foothills of Mt. Pinatubo on Wednesday, linking efforts to work full-blast on a canal on the volcano's crater-lake.

The sun shone bright on Wednesday, ending a week of heavy rains and strong winds by tropical depressions "Jolina" and "Pabuk" that delayed the Aetas' work.

The Aetas are scheduled to start their ascent at 4 a.m. today (Thursday) to hasten the construction of the canal.

"We asked our brothers in Tarlac to help us. Not many from Botolan were willing to take on the work because it was dangerous," Willy Bulanhigan, leader of the Aeta laborers from Botolan, told the INQUIRER.

The project is dangerous because the canal is going to be built on the 1,400-meter high summit and along steep slopes on the Maraunot notch, the crater's lowest rim.

Nelson Pangilinan, chief of the Tarlac Tribal Aetas Association, said tribesmen of Sta. Juliana were eager to help because their relatives on the Botolan side of the volcano face the risk of overflow or breakout of water from the almost-filled crater-lake.

The Aetas were given raincoats, rubber boots, mosquito nets, tents and food that included packed instant noodles, their favorite food to sustain them in their mission.

On the bus on their way to Tarlac, the Aetas exchanged jokes.

Monching Ignacio said he would catch monkeys during their breaks. Others said they would catch *labuyo* or wild roosters.

"*Parang mamamasyal lang kami sa Pinatubo* (It's just like strolling around Pinatubo)," Ignacio, 36, said.

But he admits having fear in their mission.

"*Mataas si Pinatubo. Matarik ang tatayuan ng kanal* (Pinatubo is steep. The canal would be built on a steep slope)," he said.

To the Aetas, the project is not simply a job where they can earn money. "*Kailangan kasi namin ng depensa* (We need this as a defense)," Ignacio said.

Assistant Secretary Florante Soriquez of the Department of Public Works and Highways asked mining companies to lend pumps to the project so the construction of the canal could be hastened.

Christopher Newhall of the United States Geological Survey and Raymundo Punongbayan, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, recommended the use of the power pumps.

Soriquez said the pumps would be used to suck the crater-lake's water to push the soil down on the crater's Maraunot notch. He said the use of pumps would cut down the project schedule from a month to two weeks.

"We are all interested in finishing the project," Soriquez said, noting the need for helicopters to transport the pumps.

Aside from the DPWH, the other agencies involved in the project are the Phivolcs, the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Office of Civil Defense, and the Botolan municipal and provincial governments.

Soriquez said Punongbayan had ruled out the proposal of the military to use dynamite to blast the notch's breccia, or slightly consolidated materials.

"We are largely resorting only to manual labor, not blasting," he said.

Aeta laborers will be armed with pick and shovel. They will be paid P250 a day.

Rather than allow 10 percent of the breccia to naturally erode and let loose 30 million cubic meters (MCM) of lake water, Soriquez said the agencies agreed to build the canal that will induce the flow of half that water volume.

At least 30 MCM of water is estimated to trigger 300 million cubic meters of lahar. The gradual release of 15 MCM of water will only remobilize 75 MCM of volcanic sediments.

In this manner, lahar would be contained within middle reaches of the Maraunot River, Soriquez explained, quoting Punongbayan's forecast.

"It's more risky to do nothing. We are trying to lower the risks of overflow and breakout. The volume of water that will descend to Botolan will be bigger if we do nothing at all and allow the water to rise to the level of the breccia," he said.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Western Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Monsoon rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Baguio	Monsoon rains	HI 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	HI 29° Lo 20°
Laoag	Monsoon rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Monsoon rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Monsoon rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	HI 27° Lo 26°
Calapan	Monsoon rains	HI 30° Lo 27°
Bacolod	Monsoon rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Roxas	Monsoon rains	HI 30° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rains	HI 28° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 27°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 26°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/24/01

Maid jailed in UAE returns to Isabela home town a hero

SAN AGUSTIN, Isabela—A Filipino domestic helper in the United Arab Emirates who was jailed for killing her employer after he tried to rape her in 1999 received a hero's welcome from her townmates here on Wednesday.

Visibly tired from the 10-hour trip from Manila, Maryjane Ramos, 23, smiled, waved and shook hands with some 5,000 Isabela folk who trooped to the municipal auditorium here to welcome the "idol of the OFWs."

She cried when she saw residents and students carrying placards with "Bayani Ka, Maryjane" printed on them.

"Thank you all. God will provide for you," said Ramos, a native of Sitio San Juan, a town about near Barangay Masaya Centro here.

Ramos was jailed for two years and seven months in the Mamoorah Central Jail in the UAE for killing Mohammad Al-Shamsi who tried to rape her on Jan. 22, 1999.

She thanked government officials, businessmen and members of civic groups who helped raise 150,000 dirhams or P2.3 million in exchange for her freedom.

Ramos, however, has yet to decide whether to undergo counseling at the local social welfare department and training for livelihood opportunities.

"I will take a rest for a few days at our sitio in San Juan. I will decide later on what to do so I (could provide for my child's needs)," she told the INQUIRER.

Coy Belardo, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration-central office executive assistant, said she asked the local social welfare office to conduct psycho-social counseling on Ramos.

She said the agency would also give financial assistance and scholarship to Ramos' son, John Mar, and employment training to her husband Johnny.

San Agustin Mayor Virgilio Padilla promised to hire Ramos as a casual worker at the municipal government if she likes to stay in her town for good.

"I will take good care of my son. I will never go abroad again to work," Ramos said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

LIVING ALONE

Ex-judge found dead in home

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The decomposing body of former Judge Enrique Jocson was found on Wednesday in his house in Barangay Sum-ag in this city.

He was 68.

Jocson, who lived alone in his house, was believed to have been dead for about four to five days when his body was discovered by SFO2 Jose Pilla Guco, the judge's caretaker.

Guco went to the judge's home on Wednesday to feed the judge's 18 dogs.

He went inside the bedroom to check on Jocson only to discover the judge's decomposing body on the floor, just beside the bed.

Guco said he also saw some medicines near the judge's body when it was found. Also found in his house was an oxygen tank with a hose that was attached to a wall.

One of the judge's dogs was also found dead outside the house. The dog apparently died of starvation, police investigators said.

Guco said he last saw Jocson on Aug. 17. Guco said he was not able to visit the judge immediately because of his hectic schedule.

Guco is a fire fighter assigned at the Bacolod City Fire Station.

The judge was suffering from several ailments like asthma and hypertension, according to Guco.

SPO3 Renaldo Auditor of the Central Investigating Unit of the Bacolod police said they have not noticed any signs of struggle on Jocson that would indicate foul play in his death.

But he said he could not say whether or not there was foul play in the judge's death unless the body is subjected to an autopsy.

SFO2 Armando Agravante, a former caretaker of Jocson, said they did not know if Jocson was married or not since he had been living alone for as long as they could remember.

He said they had heard unconfirmed talks that the judge was separated from his wife who is now in the United States.

Jocson's body now lies in state at the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel in Barangay Estefania, this city. Interment is scheduled on Monday at the Rolling Hills Memorial Park.

It was not immediately known if his body would be autopsied before the interment.

Guco said Jocson was brought to a hospital last month for his various ailments.

According to Guco's father, Eustaquio, he saw his son Friday and was told that the judge had complained that he was not feeling well.

Eustaquio was even asked by his son to buy medicines for the former judge on that day.

The former judge had been told by his doctor to take a rest after he complained of not feeling well.

Court drama turns fatal

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Former Dumaguete Vice Mayor Manuel Roxas died of a heart attack after a heated argument during a court hearing on Monday. He was 69.

Roxas, a lawyer, was representing a client in a civil case before the sala of Judge Araceli Alafriz of the Regional Trial Court Branch 41 when he got into an argument with the opposing counsel, Alfredo Arrieta.

Judge Alafriz said that after an initial raising of voices, the two lawyers went outside to settle their differences.

Tempers flared even as two other lawyers inside the courtroom tried to pacify them. "They almost came to blows," Alafriz said, who saw the event through her glass wall.

Cooler heads later prevailed and Roxas was escorted to his car by lawyer Reuel Bael. Roxas later came back to the sala of Judge Alafriz to offer his apologies.

"He was even smiling and I told him to take care of his health," Alafriz said.

ROUNDUP

Legazpi being monitored

LEGAZPI CITY—Environment officials fear that coastal areas here have become transshipment points of illegally cut lumber from other Bicol provinces, prompting them to closely monitor the areas. The environment department expressed the fear after receiving reports of the illegal activity. It added that the remaining forested areas of the Camarines provinces are lairs of illegal tree cutters. DENR regional executive director Oscar Hamada said soldiers and DENR officials seized more than P195,000 worth of illegal forest products in Barangay Sipaco, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur last week.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Robbery suspect shot

LUCENA CITY—An agent of the National Bureau of Investigation accidentally shot and seriously wounded a robbery suspect he was investigating Thursday in his office here. Supt. Danny Ramon Siongco, Lucena City police chief, identified the victim as Jason Landicho, 17, of Barangay Mateuna, Tayabas, Quezon. NBI special investigator Esteban Libit Jr., 35, of Barangay Bungoy, Dolores town, told police investigators that he was interrogating Landicho and his companion, Rodolfo Malveda over a robbery. Libit said Malveda allegedly grabbed his service firearm but was able to grapple with him. The gun went off and hit Landicho in the head. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PSG men in mauling raps

CEBU CITY—Two members of the Presidential Security Group were charged with slight physical injuries for beating a taxi driver on the eve of President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit here on Aug. 17. Master Sgt. Arsenio Soriano, 43, of Pampanga and TSgt. Ivan Fernandez, 44, of Barangay Lorega here, were also charged with grave threats and illegal discharge of firearms for harassing two other taxi drivers. The two were later released after posting bail of P6,000 and paying P200-fine each for violating the ordinance that bans drunkenness after the two were found positive of alcohol by the Cebu City Medical Center. Soriano and Fernandez denied the charges.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

More platelet production

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Philippine National Red Cross regional center here is predicting an increase in its production of platelet concentrate following a rise in the number of dengue cases. In June and July, the center here produced 512 bags of platelet concentrate for Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental and the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro, said physician Myra Yee, officer in charge of the blood center. This means a daily average of 10 bags of platelet concentrate produced for the months.

Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Contributions protested

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A group of parents from rural and urban barangays of Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental picketed the Department of Education regional office here to oppose test paper "contributions" that school officials ask from them. The group, Never Again Mindanao, said they are made to pay for the test papers despite a ban by Education Secretary Raul Roco on unauthorized collection of fees. Failure to pay the fees, amounting to an average of P30, means that children could not take their examinations.

Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Firetruck probe sought

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Councilor Bernardo Piñol has filed a resolution seeking for the re-investigation of a fire truck the city government purchased several months ago. He said until now, the P3.2 million, which was to be used for the purchase, could not be found although Mayor Luis Malaluan claimed it was already returned to the treasury. However, Piñol said he has yet to see a document proving that the amount was reverted to the treasury.

Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Cops use DNA tests to pin down suspect

FILE/ROGER MARGALLO

MASSACRE suspect Afalla on his arrival at the NAIA after his arrest in Florida in June.

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Police investigators on Monday submitted the bloodied shirts of massacre suspect Danilo Afalla for a laboratory examination that police hope would serve as additional evidence that would link him to the murder of his wife and three children.

Afalla's clothes, which agents of the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) found in his house in Miami, Florida, were turned over to the National Bureau of Investigation for DNA analysis, according to Chief Supt. Dominador Villalobos, local police director.

Afalla, 41, is the prime suspect in the murder of his wife Aperacion, and their three children Cheenie Claire, 13; Mark Anthony, 11; and Michael Angelo, 5.

The victims' decaying bodies were dug up along a riverbank in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos here on April 18, hogtied and wrapped in bed sheets. The victims' heads were wrapped in plastic grocery bags.

On April 19, Afalla left for the United States to board his ship in Miami while failing to report the disappearance of his family.

After weeks of hiding, Afalla, who worked as a mechanic for a German shipping company, was collared near his apartment on May 12 by US Immigration and Naturalization Service agents. He was deported to the country on June 21.

He now faces four counts of parricide charges before two courts here. Parricide is a non-bailable offense.

However, Afalla has denied involvement in the killings.

Using the state-of-the-art technology of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) analysis, forensic investigators will try to match blood samples of the victims and those that were separately gathered from the stained bed sheets and blood traces inside the suspect's Mitsubishi Adventure van that was believed used in transporting the victims' bodies.

Through DNA testing, blood samples print out a genetic pattern unique to every individual, and test results can provide an unmistakable clue whether the victims were loaded into the vehicle after the crime, or if the bloodstains on the suspect's shirts were from any of the victims.

Villalobos said the initial plan to use the DNA equipment of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame, Quezon City, was aborted, as technicians have yet to return from training in the United States.

"We do not have the luxury of time to wait for them. This case should move forward," he said, adding that the NBI's DNA equipment would be used instead. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Soldier, reb slain in clash

LEGAZPI CITY—A Philippine Army soldier and a New People's Army rebel were killed while another government trooper was seriously hurt in two separate early morning encounters on Wednesday in Barangay Mancasay and Barangay Tabas, Paracale, Camarines Norte.

Reports reaching the police regional headquarters here identified the victims as Cpl. Eduardo Tuyay, a member of the Army's 203rd Infantry Brigade, while the rebel's identity is still being established.

Injured was Pfc. Jestor Balanay who is undergoing treatment at the Camarines Norte Provincial Hospital.

According to 2nd Lt. Omar Agada, team leader of the government troops, the encounter occurred around 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, while the soldiers were patrolling in the villages.

The rebels immediately withdrew after a brief firefight.

Recovered from the scene were an M-16 rifle, a .45-cal. pistol, live ammunition and communist documents.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Probe sought of Ping man's Subic exit

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo ordered airport officials here to look into a report obtained by the Bureau of Immigration that Supt. Michael Ray Aquino fled the country via the Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA).

SBIA officials said reports they received from Manila showed that Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo had confirmed that Aquino, the former operations chief of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, left for Hong Kong on June 24 aboard a chartered plane of the Philippine Airlines from the SBIA.

AQUINO

Domingo, in a news conference called in Manila, said the immigration card that Aquino presented for arrival clearance on June 24, showed that he arrived in Hong Kong from Subic on PAL Flight 316.

But Domingo said Aquino's name was not in the passenger list.

Retired Col. Antonio de Guzman, SBIA general manager, explained that the exit of individuals bound for other countries is the responsibility of personnel from the Bureau of Immigration and the Philippine National Police's Aviation Security Group.

De Guzman confirmed the departure of chartered PAL Flight PR 316 bound for Hong Kong at 6 p.m. on June 24, but stressed that the plane was a connecting flight from Manila.

He showed a copy of the two-page passenger manifest which listed 145 passengers—38 of whom boarded the flight in Manila and 107 in Subic.

Airport authorities here are also checking the June 24 tapes from SBIA close circuit cameras to find out if any footage of Aquino and those who might have helped him escape was recorded.

"The tapes are saved for about two months before they are erased and recycled," De Guzman told the INQUIRER.

Victor Mamon, SBMA senior deputy administrator for port operations, and De Guzman said Aquino might have boarded the plane either in Manila or Subic and managed to get through both the immigration and PNP-ASG in the series of checks that outbound passengers go through.

De Guzman said each passenger goes through the X-ray machine manned by PNP-ASG personnel, proceeds to the immigration desk where the passport is verified and goes through a final check in the sterile area where the passenger passes through another X-ray check and body search conducted by the PNP-ASG.

Mamon said the possibility of SBMA personnel being involved in Aquino's escape is "very remote" since the SBMA has no direct responsibility in procedures concerning the exit of passengers.

Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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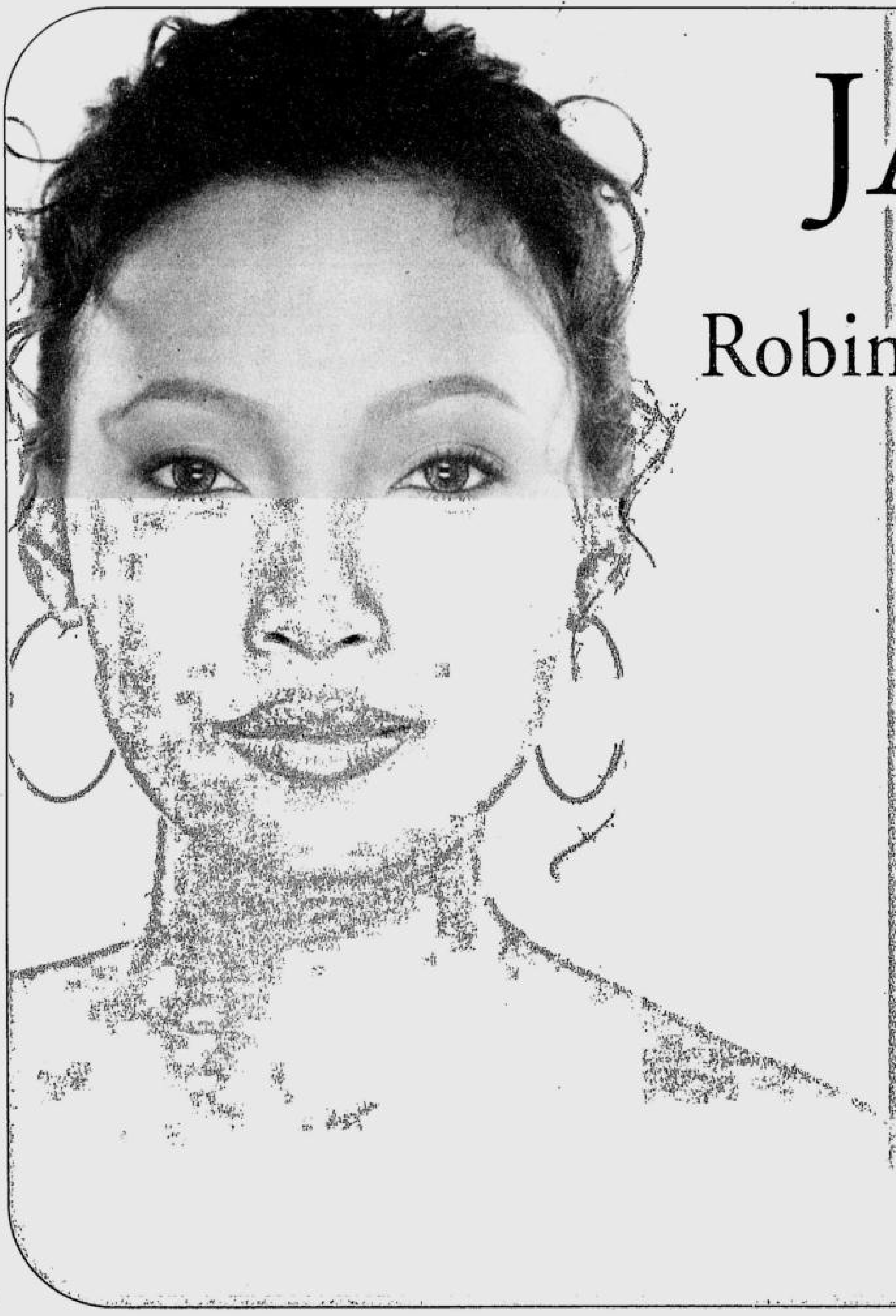

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'It would seem we now have the key'

(From page A1)

name of the senator.

"The documents seem credible," was the assessment of Sen. Ralph Recto.

Earlier, during the open session before the joint hearing conducted by the Senate public order and illegal drugs, the blue ribbon and the national defense and security committees, the senators repeatedly demanded "documentary evidence" to support the allegations by the chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), Col. Victor Corpus, that Lacson was involved in the drug trade, kidnap-for-ransom, summary executions, bank robberies and money laundering.

But Wycoco and Corpus had refused to provide more details, including that of Lacson accounts. An FBI agent allegedly had made an "oral confirmation" of these accounts.

Wycoco and Corpus also said that they had documents that would allegedly indicate the existence of other Lacson accounts.

Both officials told the hearing that they would only present the documents during the executive session.

Other witnesses

Apart from Lacson and Wycoco, the other witnesses present at the executive session were Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza.

The other witnesses who testified in the open hearing were AFP Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva, GMA-7 newsman Arnold Clavio, dzMM anchor Kaye Dacer and Jesuit priest Conrado Caluag II, Alfredo Lim, suspected drug lord Kim Wong, "surprise witness" Danny Devnani and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay.

It was not like "frightful Friday," Mawanay said of his second appearance at the Senate.

"It was a happy Senate hearing yesterday," Mawanay told the INQUIRER, referring to last Friday when the senators ordered him detained for failing to come up with documentary evidence on his allegations that Sen. Loren Legarda purchased from him smuggled cellular phones in December 1998.

Asked to comment on Mawanay's claim that the senators were good to him, Pimentel said: "*Baka siya bumait* (It is he who's better)."

"It was an honest to goodness exchange," he said of yesterday's hearing.

Correct mistakes

Mawanay said he was glad the senators had "corrected their mistakes" as he also said he came better prepared to answer their questions.

He said he had asked the senators to allow him to divulge sensitive information through an executive session, something which he did not do in the initial hearing.

This was because, he said, he had a lawyer now to advise him.

Mawanay's lawyer Argee Guevarra agreed that the senators were "*mabait*" (kind) at yesterday's hearing.

Guevarra said for one, Legarda had "inhibited" herself in the hearing, something which, he said, was tantamount to her "acting on our motion."

Mawanay's lawyers had sought to inhibit Legarda and seven other senators from the hearing due to their alleged "prejudgment" of Mawanay as a liar.

In yesterday's testimony, Legarda said she no longer questioned Mawanay on the cell phone controversy.

But the Senate majority ledder the other day said she did not plan to take up that issue in yesterday's hearing because she was filing a perjury case in court against Mawanay.

Biazon's own analysis was that yesterday's hearing turned out to be orderly because the senators wanted to focus the hearings on the two resolutions that dealt with the military allegations against Lacson.

Recto agreed that the hearing proceeded "more swiftly" and "more properly.

"It's less emotional, less protectionist, more fair and impartial," Recto added.

It was less emotional and more organized, Recto observed.

Emerging from the executive session, Sen. Loren Legarda refused to disclose what had transpired. She would only say that, "It is our duty to continue with the hearings. It is incumbent upon us to let out the truth no matter who gets hurt. I will support an expeditious, fair and transparent Senate probe."

Civil society backs Corpus

By Andrea T. Echavez

CIVIL society groups behind the Edsa II people power movement which ultimately deposed Joseph Estrada expressed full support yesterday to military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus in his "crusade" to expose the alleged criminal activities of former police general and now incumbent Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

In a forum at the Ateneo de Manila Wednesday night, groups led by Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II and the newly formed watchdog group Katotohanan asked Corpus not to stop in his fight against the emergence of a narco-state for "the sake of the country."

Several prominent individuals like former Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan, human rights crusader Ed Olaguer and religious leaders also came to the forum and aired support for Corpus.

Corpus, who was grilled by the Senate last Friday, said he was touched by the wide support shown him.

"I thought I was alone in this crusade but now I found out that many people are one with me after all and I thank all of you for your support," Corpus told a jampacked crowd.

Even organizers were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support. Many of those who showed up came to the forum uninvited.

"We did not expect the crowd to be this big. After all, we have yet to formally launch Katotohanan in September," said Celso Cainglit, one of the forum organizers.

Kompil II convenor Dan Songco said civil society groups are planning to hold a Senate Watch similar to that launched during the Estrada impeachment trial.

"We have yet to formalize the plans but we hope to do it to remind the Senate that the people are watching their moves closely," he told the INQUIRER shortly after the forum.

'We were never close,' says Erap

(From page A1)

to accuse him and the Estradas of complicity in the criminal activities of the notorious Kuratong Baleleng gang.

Not the elder Estrada who admitted knowing Devnani way back when he was still the Vice President.

"But we were never close . . . I've almost forgotten him," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview from his detention quarters at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

The ousted President said Devnani was "a close friend of Berroya's," dismissing his testimony as another "well-orchestrated ploy" to malign him.

The elder Estrada said Devnani's testimony hardly surprised him. "What can you expect? Berroya is already his handler," he added.

According to him, Berroya had an ax to grind after he sent him to jail for kidnapping. Berroya then was with the now defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission that Estrada headed.

The Supreme Court subsequently ordered Berroya's release from prison for lack of evidence. After the Edsa People Power II in January, Berroya went on to become the Philippine National Police intelligence chief and later the PNP director for Central Luzon.

"You better check on the credibility of this guy. He's been discredited even in the Indian community," the elder Estrada said.

He said Devnani had lost a lot of money at the casinos. "He always sought an appointment with me in Malacañang to borrow money," Estrada added.

In a television interview, Jinggoy Estrada also brushed aside Devnani's testimony. He suggested that the witness was a desperate man, "a casino habitue deep in gambling debt."

The young Estrada, who is detained with his father at the VMCC also on plunder charges, said Devnani had also approached him several times to borrow money.

Lacson, lawyers

Lacson said in Zamboanga City that the only Indian he knew was Max Talereha, "a concessionaire at the Naia (Ninoy Aquino International Airport.)"

Lacson, who skipped the Senate committee hearing on various criminal charges against him, said Col. Victor Corpus and his backers were bent on pinning him down.

"Of course, if they present a witness that I don't know and that witness would point to me as doing something illegal, then definitely that's a planted witness," he told the INQUIRER at the Southern Command headquarters.

Lawyers of the ousted President appeared divided on how to deal with Devnani's testimony.

Lawyer Cleofe Verzola said she would advise her client not to comment.

"Nobody in his right mind should comment on that.

This is foolish. These statements being made are not admissible anywhere except in this forum where anybody can be libeled, defamed. What kind of situation do we have here? It's impossible," she said in a TV interview immediately after the Senate hearing.

Another Estrada lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, scoffed at Devnani's revelations.

"A congressional inquiry shields no one from *tsismis* (rumors), but the administration has no choice but to try to go to the courts that Colonel Corpus condemns in wholesale fashion," Saguisag said in a press statement.

"We have news for him. Courts require evidence, not rumors," he added.

More on Devnani

The elder Estrada claimed Eli Gardener, a *compadre* whom he appointed head of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, introduced Devnani to him in 1995.

"He (Devnani) and Berroya were friends way back in 1992 as both were members of the Rotary Club of Pasay City North. Eli was then club president that year," Estrada said.

Estrada denied Devnani's claim that he owned the "Club 419" in San Juan, but admitted "that's where I used to meet my friends."

He said it's actually "Gardener and some friends" who were the original incorporators of the exclusive nightclub.

Estrada said his only role in setting up the club was convincing the owners of the property—show biz celebrity couples Susan Roces and Fernando Poe Jr.—to lease the property to Gardener.

Estrada said Gardener eventually made Devnani a "partner" in Club 419 that was later renamed Club IBC.

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FBI confirmed Ping account, says Wycoco

(From page A1)

Under oath, Wycoco and Victor Corpus told investigating senators that the account was held in a Citibank branch on 19th (Avenue) in San Francisco, an allegation that Lacson and bank spokespersons have denied.

Corpus and Wycoco, who met with the FBI agent, said they were not told how much was kept in the account. In earlier reports, Corpus identified the amount as $24 million.

"The FBI has confirmed that there is an account," said Corpus, although he said the confirmation was only "oral."

Pressed to reveal more about the alleged account, Corpus and Wycoco said they would rather do so behind closed doors in an executive session.

The two officers also said they have documents pointing to the existence of other accounts, which they agreed to reveal in the executive session.

Asked by Sen. Renato Cayetano whether he was satisfied with the verbal confirmation, Wycoco said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has asked US authorities for written confirmation, which has not yet arrived.

"It is one of those (topics) for which we are seeking a written reply from the Attorney General of the United States," Perez told the senators.

Wycoco said the meeting with the American agent was arranged through "inter-agency" coordination between the two investigative bureaus.

He said that the NBI and the Department of Justice had discovered two other accounts, but added that these were not yet confirmed.

2400 19th Ave.

Corpus earlier said that the $24-million account was in a Citibank branch on 2400 19th Ave. in San Francisco.

The account was among those listed when Corpus first made public his allegations, which were reported in the Aug. 5 issue of the INQUIRER.

Corpus said the "confirmed" account was the same one tracked down through a tip from ex-civilian agent Angelo Mawanay.

In another INQUIRER report, Mawanay claimed that Lacson once instructed him to go to the United States to withdraw $2 million from the account. According to his story, the trip never took place, but Mawanay took down the account number: 0102-7720-0045-5000.

Mawanay yesterday claimed that he earned Lacson's trust when he successfully delivered drugs for the former police chief on four separate occasions.

"He even asked me to apply for a passport," Mawanay said of Lacson's alleged instructions to him to prepare for the trip abroad.

Corpus, in reply to a question about how the drugs were obtained, claimed that Lacson was aided by the recently disbanded Special Reaction Unit of the Philippine Navy, which retrieves drugs in Batangas. The unit worked in conjunction with the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. He said his agency was investigating the matter.

Fatal blow

Sought for comment, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told the INQUIRER that proof of only one account with a questionably large balance would be "fatal" blow for Lacson.

"The way it is turning out now shows that the case is very strong," Golez added, referring to Corpus' controversial allegations that Lacson laundered at least $211 million in banks in North America and Hong Kong.

"All you need is to confirm just one bank account with a balance of a few millions and that would be fatal to anyone," Golez said.

Corpus said the purported evidence was strong enough to put Lacson behind bars.

"We are confident we can put him in jail with these documents," he said.

Last week, the INQUIRER published another report on two confidential letters, dated April 18 and 30, which the FBI sent to the NBI in apparent response to the latter's request for information on the Lacsons' alleged accounts in the United States.

The letters confirmed the existence of only four active accounts held by Lacson's wife Alice, two with "small" balances and two with "large" ones. The letters also identified one account closed by the senator in 1996.

The INQUIRER obtained copies of the letters, with certain portions marked out, from a pro-administration official. The letters are believed to be among the documents that Wycoco earlier said confirmed certain Lacson accounts in California.

When asked if Corpus had informed the President of the FBI's confirmation before telling the Senate, Golez said: "That is an independent operation. There's no need for blow-by-blow reporting to the President. Let us detach the President from this operational matter. They are working independently."

'Strong institutions'

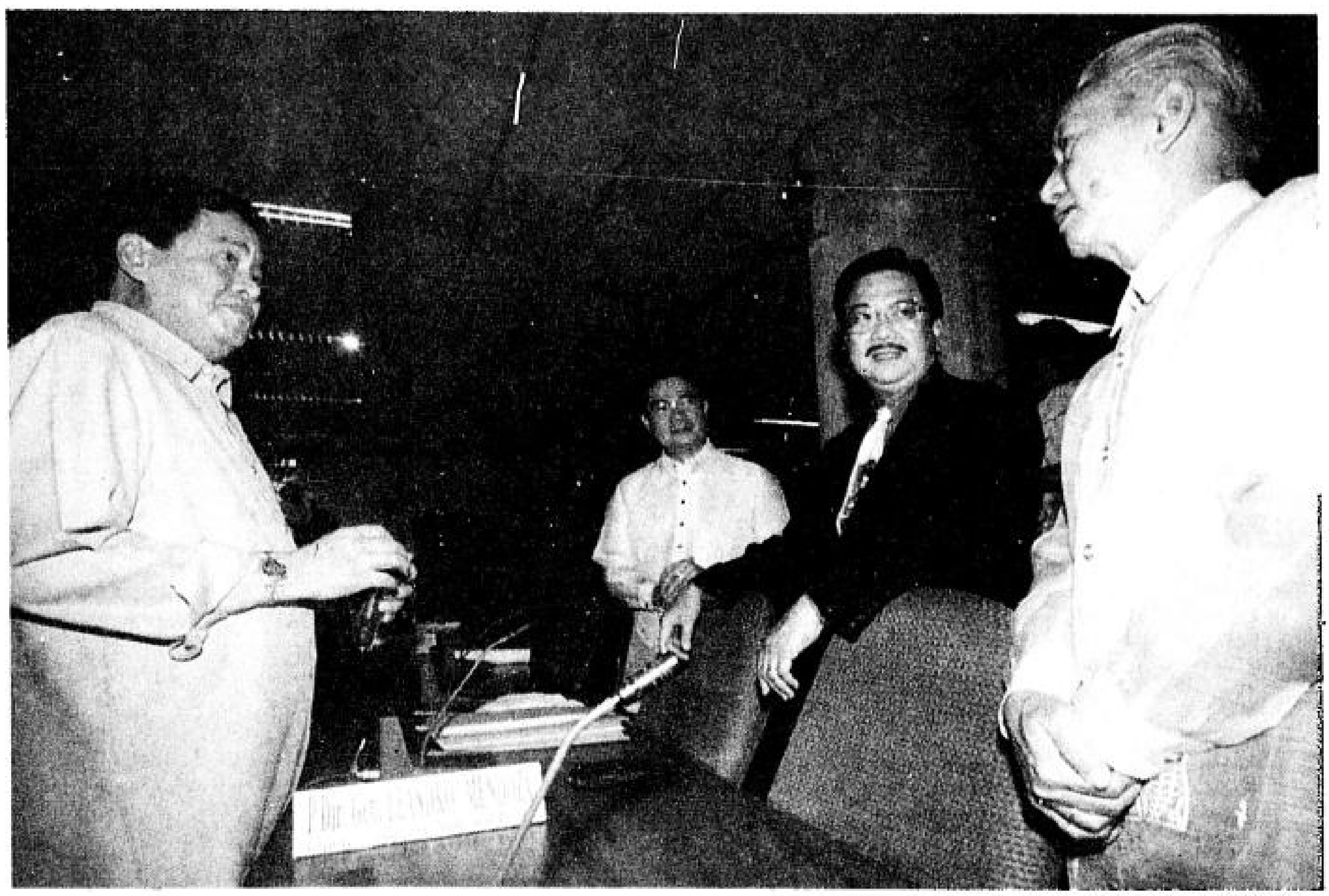
Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao declined to comment on the reported FBI confirmation except to say that the wider exposé proves that the political institutions in the country are strong.

"We have the disclosures of the military intelligence agencies and the accounts by the prestigious Philippine Daily Inquirer," said Tiglao, a former columnist for the paper. "Now we have the Senate investigation, and the Department of Justice is going through due process. All these show our institutions are strong." The Malacañang official praised the Senate for finally focusing its inquiry on the substance of the allegations against Lacson.

Tiglao said the conduct of yesterday's Senate inquiry showed that the senators have set aside their "old boys' club" attitude of protecting their own from scandals.

"I feel that all of these issues are confirming the strength of our institutions. The Senate is conducting itself quite well in focusing on the (main) issue," Tiglao said.

"I believe the senators are men and women of integrity who can set aside an old-boys club mentality," he said.



ERIK ARAZAS

.AT the gentler, kinder Senate, Senator Barbers listens to Justice Secretary Perez, NBI Director Wycoco and Alfredo Lim.

Matillano sees Lacson in jail 'before Christmas'

DAVAO CITY—Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police director for Southern Mindanao, is certain that his "mistah" Sen. Panfilo Lacson "will be in jail before Christmas."

Matillano, like Lacson a 1971 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, yesterday told members of the Armed Forces-Philippine National Police Press Corps that the Kuratong Baleleng case was in itself sufficient to pin down the senator.

He said the AFP and the PNP would shortly issue a manifesto expressing full support for military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, who had accused Lacson of engaging in drug trafficking, money laundering and other crimes.

"Before, it was a lonely battle, but now others have learned to come out and fight against Lacson," Matillano said. "We will not let our country become another Colombia or Mexico."

Matillano also said he would revive the criminal charges he filed against Lacson in May 1998.

The Task Force Amihan led by Matillano had raided a repository in Camp Crame and found wiretapping devices, hundreds of firearms, explosives and drugs.

Matillano traced the stuff to Lacson. But the Office of the Ombudsman dismissed the charges, pointing out that the raid was not covered by a warrant.

Lacson subsequently sued Matillano for grave coercion and arbitrary detention, and filed a P1.5-million damage suit before the Sandiganbayan. *Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PRAYING over principal witness Mawanay before the hearing is a religious group led by Msgr. Nico Bautista

ERIK ARAZAS

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Corpus calls Wong 'a liar'

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Christine Avendaño

KIM Wong and Col. Victor Corpus came face to face for the first time at yesterday's Senate hearing, where the latter called the former a "liar."

Wong also appeared to distance himself from his friend, Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

After admitting in earlier media interviews that he paid the bill for one of Lacson's cellular phones, Wong told senators that it was his wife who had been doing so.

He said Lacson's secretary would contact his wife, who would in turn settle the bill.

Corpus, however, submitted to the hearing documents showing that Lacson's cell phone number and bills were listed and paid under Wong's name.

"He's a liar," Corpus said of Wong.

Wong described Lacson as a "friend" and said he gave the former chief of the Philippine National Police a cell phone sometime in 1999 because it was a "promotional item" by Smart.

Corpus had said that Wong was Lacson's link to the Hong Kong-based 14-K drug syndicate, which was why the businessman was paying the senator's phone bills. Lacson had earlier admitted that Wong was his friend, but he denied that Wong was a drug lord.

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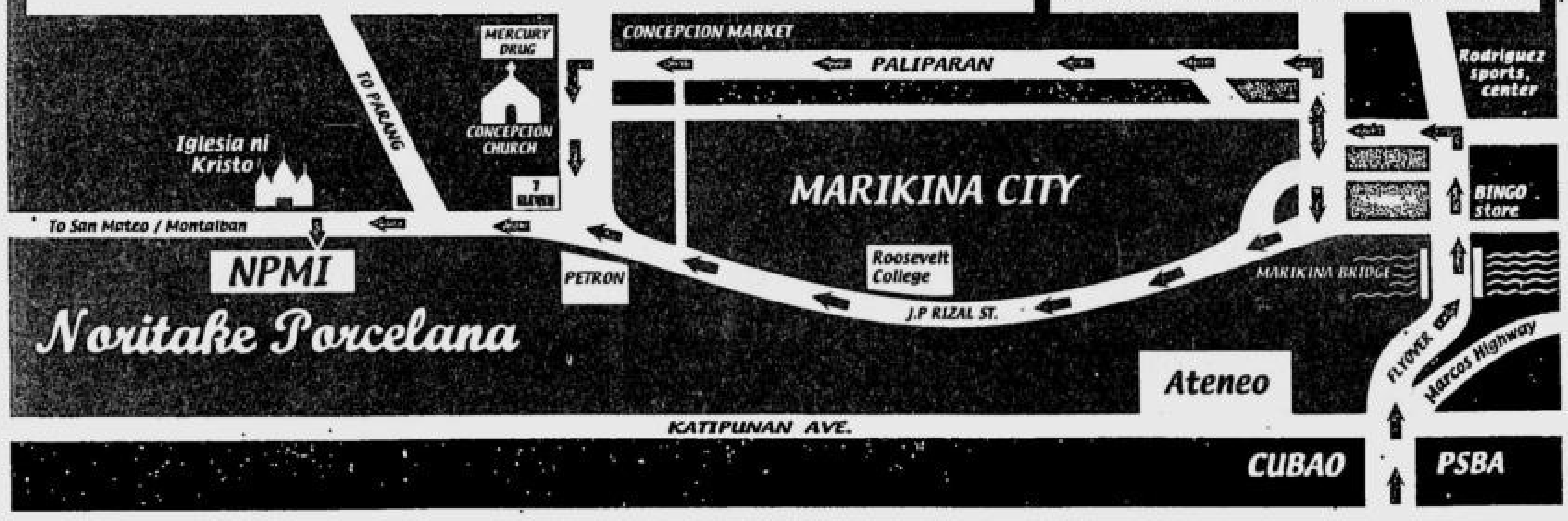

Opposition urged to cross party lines

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

MILITANT groups yesterday challenged party mates of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Senate to cross party lines and support the investigation into allegations against the former chief of the Philippine National Police.

Rodolfo Sambajon, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, said the conduct of senators in the minority bloc in the ongoing hearings showed that they were siding with Lacson.

"They vehemently denied their bias to Ping, but their statements and actions clearly express their party stand on the issue," Sambajon said.

"Is Senator Lacson under the protective custody of politicians known for their close association with the Marcos and Estrada regimes?" he asked.

Sambajon reiterated militant group's previous demands for Lacson to take a leave of absence as senator.

"Ping should only be called at the witness stand when his time comes, but definitely he should not be allowed to investigate or grill the witnesses. His psy-war talents and intimidating presence could influence the outcome of the investigation to his favor," Sambajon said. Sambajon dared Lacson's allies in the upper chamber to go beyond party affiliation and personalities.

"We would like to remind the senators that they were elected to serve the common people and not to shield an erring politician from public scrutiny and possible wholesale condemnation," he said. Gerry Albert-Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, berated opposition senators for having arrived at a "party decision" to save Lacson from embarrassment and humiliation as the Senate hears his case. "This is not responsible opposition but plain disregard of the people's interest to have Ping prosecuted and if found guilty, gets appropriate punishment for his scores of crimes against the people," Corpuz said

"Lacson cannot forever live with his dark secrets and past crimes, the same with political authors, who wish to get the senator off the hook," he added.

Sambajon said his group was not surprised to see allies of Lacson rush to his defense."

"The Senate would not be known as the "Old Boys Club" for nothing. After ex-President Estrada, the club might just repeat its dismal performance by spoiling the case People of the Philippines versus Senator Panfilo Lacson," he said.

Corpuz said the Senate investigation on Lacson should proceed and be resolved with finality at the soonest possible time.

"The public wants truth and justice to prevail over avant-garde crimes, political banditry and presidential ambitions," Corpuz said.

Ador's kid knew Ping as dad's boss, says Clavio

By Dona Pazzibugan

IS a picture worth a thousand denials?

Perhaps so in the case of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, whose campaign paraphernalia helped a broadcast journalist believe ex-civilian agent Angelito "Ador" Mawanay's claims that he worked for the former police chief.

GMA-7 broadcaster Arnold Clavio told a Senate hearing yesterday that he was around when one of Mawanay's two children recognized Lacson's picture on one of the pocket calendars he used in his campaign.

Clavio said he overheard Misha, "aged four or five," say "Dada's boss" while looking at Lacson's picture.

To make sure he heard right, he said he asked the child in Taglish, "Is this your dad's boss?"

The five-year old nodded and repeated the words, "Dada's boss," Clavio said.

He said he used to "baby sit" Mawanay's two kids when the ex-agent was still in hiding and before he was taken into the custody of the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces (Isafp).

Clavio, the first journalist to interview Mawanay, told the Senate yesterday that he helped the witness find refuge with Jesuit priests through Fr. Carmelo Caluag of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Mawanay, he said, wanted to expose Lacson's alleged involvement in drug smuggling, murder and money laundering because he feared that his life was in danger.

The Jesuit priests contacted military intelligence chief Victor Corpus who eventually decided to take him into protective custody.

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Wong confronts 'Dirty Harry'

(From page A1)

kasi wala na ako sa gobyerno (He's lucky because I'm no longer with the government)."

Enraged, Wong's lawyer Frank Chavez told the senators: "That is an open public threat to my client."

It was one of two instances during the hearing that Chavez, a former solicitor general, addressed the senators, in violation of rules barring the lawyers of resource persons from speaking up.

The other time was when Lim pointed a finger at Wong and raised the need for the police to go after drug lords in the country.

Upon seeing Lim's gesture, Chavez rose and protested, interrupting the hearing.

In a phone interview later, Chavez told the INQUIRER that his client planned to file a charge of grave threats against Lim next week.

He said his client would also file a P1 libel suit, as well as charges of perjury and imputations of crime, against Lim, military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, an alleged ex-civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Mawanay, who was also present at the hearing, said on Friday that he delivered *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) to Wong at his Seafood Wharf restaurant in April 1999 and January 2000.

"(Lim) was using triple hearsay . . . He had no personal knowledge (of Sy's disappearance) because he was only relying on what Ong said," Chavez said.

He also claimed that Lim was implicating Wong because his client had supported Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's reelection campaign.

29 years

Wong, whom Corpus had earlier identified as Lacson's drug financier with supposed links to the Chinese 14-K triad, denied to the senators that he was involved in the trade in illegal drugs.

He said he was a legitimate Chinese businessman who had been living in the Philippines for 29 years now.

Asked what were his businesses in the country, he said that he owned a garment manufacturing firm run by his wife and that he co-owned three restaurants located at the back of Rizal Park.

"I am a simple man. I can be invited by government agencies for questioning," he said in Taglish.

Ostensibly to prove that he did not have as much money as Corpus was claiming, Wong said he owed Allied Bank P40 million. He said he had borrowed the money to invest in the three restaurants he co-owned with another Chinese businessman.

The senators, however, pointed out that he would not have been granted the loan had he not shown that he was capable of payment.

Wong also said that if he were involved in drug dealing, his name would have been on the Narcotics Group's list of drug lords.

The senators asked Mawanay to point out Wong to them. Mawanay rose and did so.

But Wong denied knowing Mawanay, and challenged the latter to provide the exact dates of their supposed meetings. He said he could check these against his appointment diary.

He also said Mawanay was lying when the latter said they met at the door of his restaurant for the supposed drug deliveries because, he pointed out, his restaurant had no door.

"*Baka multo po* (Perhaps it's a ghost)," he said of the person to whom Mawanay supposedly handed the drugs.

Wong denied having any pending case against him—a statement that Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, later rebutted.

Wycoco said he had checked the NBI records and found that a Kamsin Wong—the businessman's real name—had a swindling and estafa case, and a Kim Wong Co, a case of violation of a city ordinance.

Under questioning, Wong said he had known Lacson since 1997 when they were first introduced.

He also said he flew to Hong Kong last week, when Corpus revealed his links with Lacson, out of fear for his personal safety.

He said that prior to Corpus' revelation, agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines had come to his home.

Taped interview

To back his claim against Wong, Lim played an interview he and co-host Dacer conducted with Ong on March 8 over their dzMM radio program.

In the interview, Ong told Dacer, who also appeared at the Senate hearing, that Sy disappeared after a Major Tanaga of the PAOCTF collected him at SM North in Quezon City.

Lim said in his testimony that Wong ordered Sy's execution because the latter had supposedly stumbled on information about Wong's major drug shipment from Hong Kong.

Ong cited in the interview statements by Sy's wife and mother-in-law that Tanaga arranged to meet with Sy on May 12 at SM North. She said that PAOCTF agents picked up Sy, and that his wife and mother-in-law waited in vain for his return.

Sen. Ralph Recto recalled Mawanay's earlier claim that he had witnessed Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, a trusted aide of Lacson's, shoot a man inside a van.

Mawanay said the man could have been Sy.

But when asked by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Recto whether he had personal knowledge of the killing, Lim said he got his information from Ong.

"(But) subsequent events and circumstantial evidence lead to this connecting link of (Sy's) disappearance," Lim said.

Lim also said Tanaga kept calling Sy to meet him at SM Megamall on Edsa, but that the meeting place was later changed to SM North.

However, he said this information came from the affidavit of Sy's mother-in-law to the NBI.

Wong denied that he ordered Sy's abduction, and asked why he was being implicated when it was Mawanay who had seen Sy being killed.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, confirmed that there was an ongoing investigation of Sy's disappearance.

Mendoza said the man who abducted Sy had also been implicated in the disappearance of another PAOCTF agent, SPO1 Rogelio Brosas, and was being questioned.

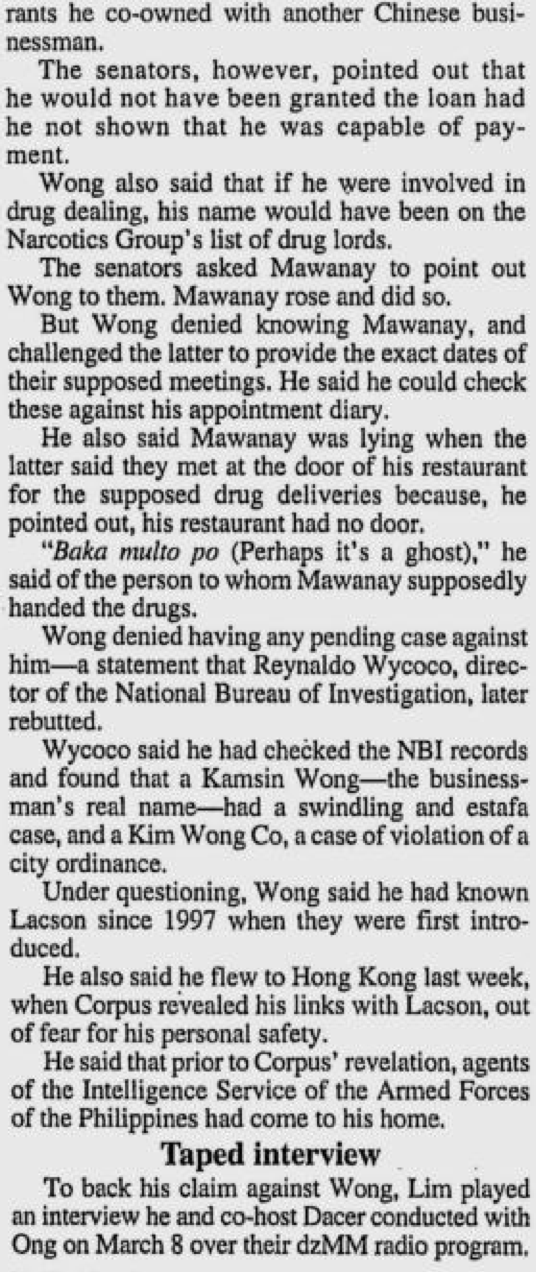
Campaign contribution

Wong asked why Lim did not go after him if the former believed him to be a criminal.

He said this could have been done during Lim's term as interior secretary of the Estrada administration.

Lim, who admitted having received campaign contributions from Wong during his election campaigns for Manila mayor in 1995 and for president in 1998, claimed that he only knew of Wong's involvement in Sy's disappearance last March 8.

Since then, Lim said, he had asked PNP chief Mendoza and NBI chief Wycoco to look into Sy's disappearance "because this will indirectly prove Wong's links to drug (smuggling)."



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

THE ACCUSER, Colonel Corpus, and the accused Kim Wong with his lawyer, Frank Chavez.

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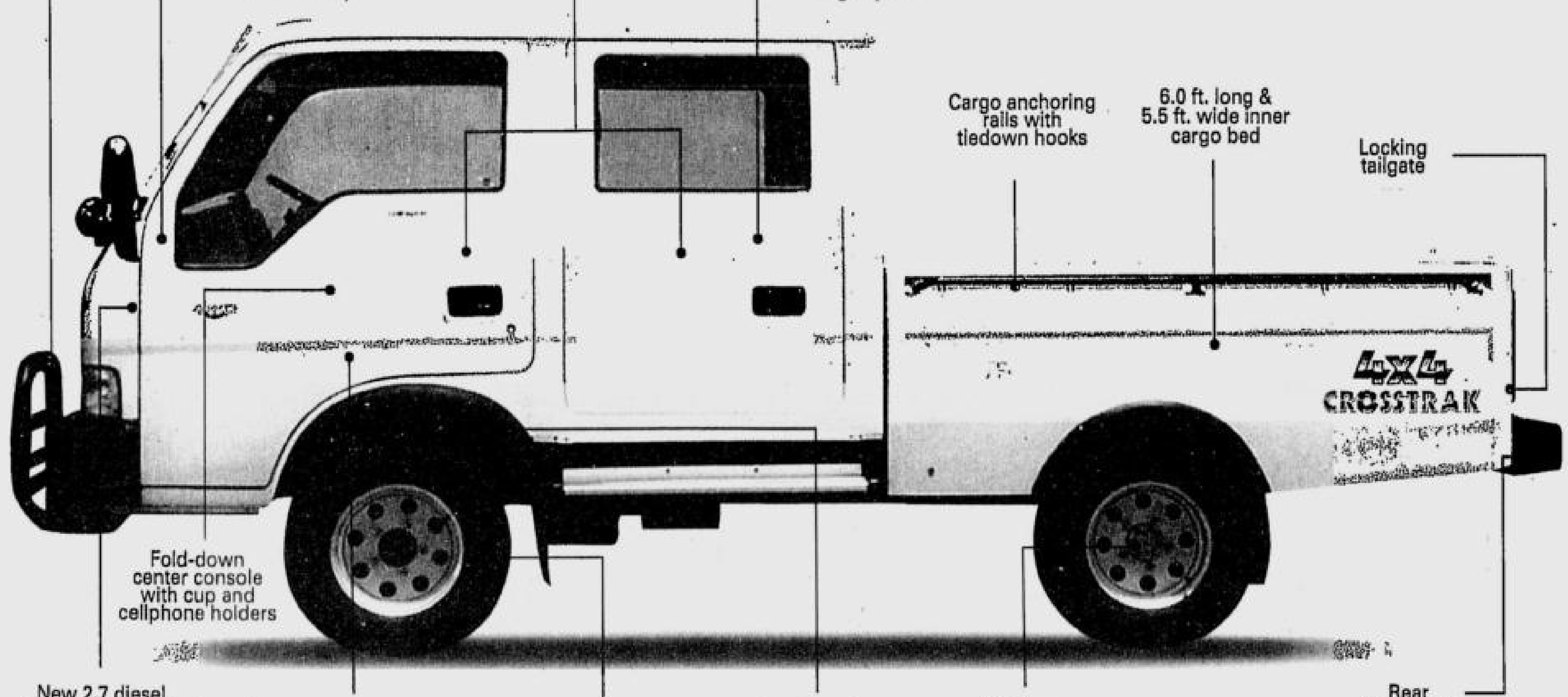
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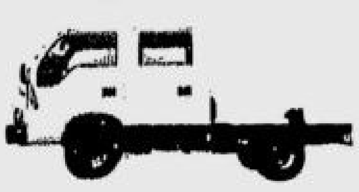

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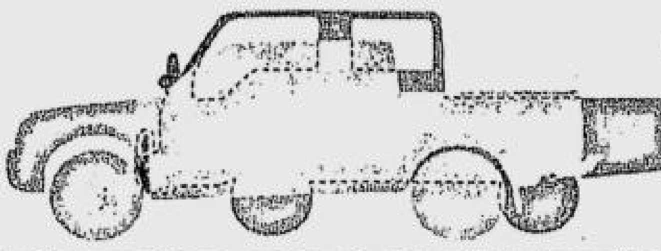

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Danny's demons

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I FELL ill Tuesday, forcing me to miss making public my prediction on who is going to win Wednesday's Game 5: the Beermen. But on game day itself, I was back in the office. Told my office mates SMB would win.

I was wrong. Batang Red Bull, smarting from Tony Lang's four points, beat San Miguel Beer, 79-77. It was a virtual repeat of Game 1, which Red Bull also won by two, 80-78. Both times, the Thunder prevailed by uncannily snatching endgame escape acts.

I can't fault Red Bull. It masterfully played its game plan to the hilt: Spring surprises almost endlessly. Willie Miller's last-second heroism nailed it for the Thunder. But still, the biggest surprise was how Yeng Guiao coached a Lang-less Thunder and still managed to pull it out of the fire. Wow! Ye-ye to Yeng.

Be that as it may, will Red Bull beat SMB again tonight and win the PBA Commissioner's Cup, 4 to 2?

I don't think so. SMB will make it 3-3. Beerman Danny Ildefonso cannot afford to play two straight boo-boos. Tonight, he will be driven by his own demons to erase the blemish of his measly four points on Wednesday. Otherwise, he will have to surrender his conference MVP plum. If he refuses, I will force him to.

I can't stand fakes.

■

Incidentally, another basketball title is at stake tonight: the MBA's first phase.

Andok's-San Juan needs to beat Negros in Game 4 to complete a 3-1 victory in their own series for the MBA crown at the San Juan gym.

Too bad the MBA title showdown had been scheduled to rival the PBA playoffs. I wish it had not happened. The MBA has been proving to be worthy of our adulation; its games have consistently improved, quality-wise. The league has now built its own crowd: the masses of people from both urban centers and the countryside.

But I do not see the MBA a keen rival of the PBA. Instead, I foresee the MBA to become a republic of its own.

That day is almost here.

Game Today (Araneta)
7 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer

Game 1—Red Bull d SMB, 80-78
Game 2—Red Bull d SMB, 92-86
Game 3—SMB d Red Bull, 100-91
Game 4—SMB d Red Bull, 88-72
Game 5—Red Bull d SMB, 79-77

By June Navarro

BATANG Red Bull has two chances in capturing its first PBA title. It will have to be either tonight or on Sunday.

But if you ask coach Yeng Guiao, the Thunder will have to do it tonight.

And all roads point to that direction as the Thunder, riding on the glory of their great escape in Game 5, go for the clincher against the San Miguel Beermen in Game 6 of their PBA Commissioners Cup Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I guess our best chance is to finish it in Game 6. San Miguel is a champion team and a first-class organization and I believe we won't have an easy time when the series extends to a Game 7," said Guiao moments after his Thunder edged the Beermen, 79-77, to go up, 3-2, in the best-of-seven Finals.

He added it is not a question of pressure, momentum or whatever intangibles are there in a dogfight but rather the crucial factor for the Thunder is to have an intact lineup for the remainder of the series.

"I'm not concerned about momentum. I'm concerned about having a complete lineup because if you go out there and see and hear things about Red Bull, there are no such things as pressure and momentum," said Guiao.

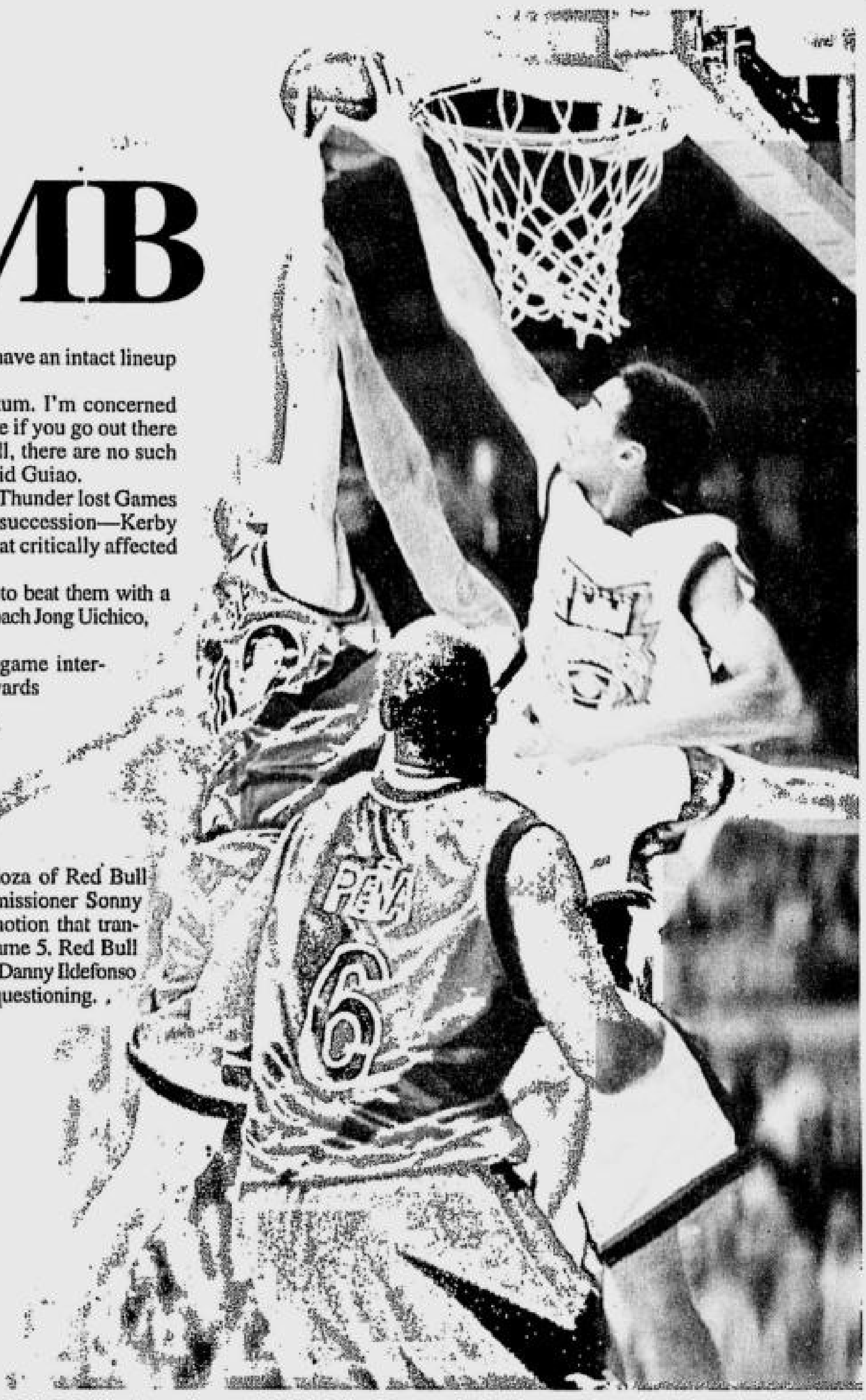
All along, Guiao is right. When the Thunder lost Games 3 and 4, he lost two key players in succession—Kerby Raymundo and Junthy Valenzuela—that critically affected their rotation.

"Probably true because we have yet to beat them with a complete lineup," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico, whose Beermen took Games 3 and 4.

Although languid during the post-game interview, Uichico believes, however, his wards could still turn things around.

The Thunder dominated the paint at both ends as they hauled down 33 defensive and 17 offensive rebounds.

Meanwhile, San Miguel's Nate Johnson and Jay Mendoza of Red Bull were summoned by acting PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios last night to explain the commotion that transpired between the two players after Game 5. Red Bull team official Gil Lumberio, San Miguel's Danny Ildefonso and Mike Mustre were also invited for questioning.



RED Bull's Tony Lang (right) foils Danny Seigle's one-handed slam in this bit of PBA action Wednesday night as Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer looks on. The Thunder won, 79-77.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Cardona stars in La Salle win

By Dennis U. Eroa

HEADLINE-GRABBING Mark Cardona followed up his own miss as titleholder La Salle escaped with a 68-67 thriller over gallant University of the East, grabbing the solo leadership yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

Standing tall despite a decision instigated by UAAP President Anton Montinola of Far Eastern U to probe his eligibility, Cardona defied the outstretched arms of two UE defenders for the winning basket, 11.8 seconds left. James Yap then broke the hearts of the red and white gallery as he made a hurried triple.

Thus, the Green Archers avenged their 79-58 shellacking at the hands of the Red Warriors in the first round. They also fortified a looming showdown with the Ateneo Blue Eagles (7-1) by posting their eighth win in nine games.

Instead of delving on La Salle's seventh straight win, coach Franz Pumaren elected to discuss the Cardona issue during the post-game interview.

"I find it amusing that the board is doing an inquiry when no formal protest has been filed. The deadline of protest was before the end of the first round. La Salle won't tolerate the breaking of eligibility rules and we have the papers to back Cardona," Pumaren said.

THE NCAA games were rained out yesterday.

NEGROS STRUGGLING

San Juan favored to clinch crown

MBA Finals
Game 1 (USLS Gym)
Negros 93, Andok's San Juan 75
Game 2 (USLS Gym)
Andok's San Juan 86, Negros 72
Game 3 (San Juan Gym)
Andok's San Juan 76, Negros 70

THE ANDOK's San Juan Knights target the clincher and the Negros Slashers the equalizer when they clash in Game 4 of the MBA First Phase title series at the San Juan Gym today.

Carrying the momentum of a hard-earned 76-70 victory over the Knights in Game 3 on Wednesday, the Knights assume the favorite's role in the 5 p.m. encounter.

Ahead, 2-1, the Knights will abort the best-of-five series if they can notch their third straight triumph over the Slashers, who are now in a do-or-die situation.

San Juan coach Philip Cezar, of course, doesn't want to waste the opportunity.

"We'll try to end this thing on Friday," said Cezar, the league's millennium coach of the year. "Anyway we have the homecourt advantage and our defense has been holding."

After losing Game 1, 93-75, San Juan stole Game 2, 86-72, in Bacolod City to gain confidence coming home.

The Knights are eyeing their third title since joining the MBA in 1999. They emerged national champions last year after beating the Slashers, 4-2, in a best-of-seven affair.

San Juan's relentless defense, especially in the shaded lane, has turned out to be the biggest thorn on the Negros side, which is also struggling, shooting-wise. Just like in Game 2, the Slashers could only shoot 28 percent (24 of 85) of their field goal attempts and 27 percent (9 of 33) from the three-point zone Wednesday night.

The taller Knights finally asserted their power underneath, taking a 64-50 edge in rebounds as Rafi Reavis cleared 14 boards.

Vilmer Banares and Danny Capobres, turning out to be good defenders, held Slashers' main man John Ferriols to just seven points, way off his 12.5 points average in the first two games.

Reavis canned four straight free throws in the last 1 minute and 31 seconds to bail San Juan out of trouble in Game 3, sharing best player of the game honors with Chito Victolero, who scored seven points aside from rhythmically orchestrating San Juan's plays in the fourth quarter.

Appeals court deflects Literal

THE COURT of Appeals ruled against Quintellano "Tiny" Literal's election as BAP president Monday even as it upheld the autonomy of the Philippine Olympic Committee and recognized its sole jurisdiction over its member National Sports Association.

The higher court also upheld the POC's decision to recognize the June 7 elections that catapulted Lito Puyat to the BAP presidency and business tycoon Manny Pangilinan to the chairmanship.

The CA also censured Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 46 presiding judge Artemio Tipon for "grave abuse of discretion" in calling for the election that installed Literal as "BAP president."

Associate Justice Rebecca De Guia-Salvador ruled on the petition for injunction originally sought by the breakaway BAP faction of Literal.

The appellate court also threw away the court cases filed by Literal against the POC-recognized BAP of Puyat before the Manila RTC Branch 46 and Parañaque City RTC Branch 274, citing rules on forum shopping.

The order thus annulled and voided the subsequent polls ordered by Tipon at the Manila RTC library on June 20, in which Literal was elected as faction president and Congressman Antonio Abaya as chair.

The CA's decision was signed on Aug. 20 by De Guia-Salvador and concurred by Associate Justices Cancio Garcia and Conchita Carpio Morales. Garcia, being the acting chair of the CA's Special Tenth Division, certified the order.

A POC source welcomed the higher court's decision, saying the resolution recognizing the POC's autonomy and jurisdiction over NSAs "should be considered by all governments internationally."

"It was clear that the higher court recognized that there should be no court or any external interference in purely POC and NSA affairs. Now, the government, through the judiciary, had put its stamp of recognition to our autonomy as provided for by our rules and bylaws," the source said. A BAP official from the Puyat group, meanwhile, hailed the court decision, saying it would help pave the lifting of the BAP suspension from the International Basketball Federation (Fiba).

Alberto finishes 2nd behind J. Lao

ROSARIO, Batangas—Castrol-Access Plus riders continued their remarkable showing after three legs in the 2001 National Super Bike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Former Rider of the Year awardee Toti Alberto made his presence felt in the race, while Jose Reyes IV and Lindsay Thomas Ryan stamped their class on in the novice category to remain in contention for the overall title in this premier motorcycle competition.

Alberto steered his Ducati 348 to second place behind defending champion Jolet Jao in the fifth round despite encountering several difficulties in the 2.8-kilometer track located some 30 minutes from Lipa City.

SPORTSWATCH

Kennie, Kennevic badminton losers

LOCAL hopes Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion bowed to Indon second seed Bambang Suprianto and Minarti Timur in a second round mixed doubles match, 17-15, 15-7 yesterday in the $150,000 JVC Asian Badminton Championship at the Philsports Arena.

Pasay derby at 7 tonight

RAIN or shine, the scheduled 3-cock derby at Pasay City Cockpit will go on as scheduled at 7 tonight with more than 50 fights on tap. At stake in this event hosted by Pasay Boys in a guaranteed prize of P150,000. Entry fee is P5,500. Assisting the hosts are pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. For submission of weights, 1.8 kg To 2.4 kg, interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Cagayan hosting Shell chess

A CASH pot of P25,500, medals, and a chance to battle it out with the country's regional chess champions await the top performers in the 2001 Shell National Youth active Chess Championship-Eastern Mindanao leg which unreels Aug. 25-26 at the Gaisano Mall, Cagayan de Oro City. Invited to grace the tournament's opening and awarding ceremonies are Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Y. Emano and Misamis Oriental Governor Antonio P. Calingin. Shell launched the first nation-wide active chess tournament among Filipino students in 1992.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Southern Skies 2. May's Magic 3. Better Harry 4. Queen Scholar
Race 2—1. Jhelen 2. Portal Dancer 3. Diamond Star 4. Forest Dancer 5. Contra Barata
Race 3—1. Mirame 2. Heart of Gold 3. Ahoy There 4. Ginger Baker 5. True Mighty
Race 4—1. Live Show 2. Remarkable 3. Iron Lady 4. Dominant Dancer 5. Wild Rose 6. Lucky Fil
Race 5—1. Ayra's Pet 2. Green Leaves 3. Naughty 4. Howard Huge 5. Cool Under Fire
Race 6—1. T Square 2. Count Me In 3. Another Sam 4. Celebration 5. Mr. Bullseye
Race 7—1. Go Johnny Go 2. Classy Babe 3. Picardy 4. Come In Glory 5. Join the Fun
Race 8—1. Duke Mark 2. Mahdi's Gold 3. Alluring 4. Dinner Dress
Race 9—1. Turbo Carera 2. Heavy Metal 3. Intunda 4. Sunny View/Waving Task 5. Knows Love 6. No Regrets

STREETBALL CHAMPIONS

Team Chromium of Ateneo de Davao and team St. Kilda of Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro pose with tournament organizers after winning the seniors and girls divisions of the Adidas Streetball Challenge National finals. The two Jesuit-run school squads will proceed to Hong Kong for the Asian Adidas Streetball finals on Aug. 26-27 where St. Kilda will defend the girls crown. With them in photo (from left) are tournament director Charlie Dy, John Alconte, Goody Custodio, Emmet Penson and Sonny Nebres.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT	GB
East				
New York	74	53	.583	—
Boston	69	56	.552	4
Toronto	60	67	.472	14
Baltimore	53	73	.421	20 1/2
Tampa Bay	46	81	.362	28
Central				
Cleveland	71	55	.563	—
Minnesota	66	61	.520	5 1/2
Chicago	62	63	.496	8 1/2
Detroit	52	73	.416	18 1/2
Kansas City	51	76	.402	20 1/2
West				
Seattle	91	36	.716	—
Oakland	73	54	.575	18
Anaheim	67	60	.528	24
Texas	56	71	.441	35

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
Atlanta	69	56	.552	—
Philadelphia	68	57	.544	1
Florida	60	65	.480	9
New York	58	68	.460	11 1/2
Montreal	54	72	.429	15 1/2
Central				
Houston	72	54	.571	—
Chicago	70	56	.556	2
St. Louis	69	57	.548	3
Milwaukee	55	70	.440	16 1/2
Cincinnati	50	76	.397	22
Pittsburgh	46	79	.368	25 1/2
West				
Arizona	73	52	.584	—
San Francisco	71	55	.563	2 1/2
Los Angeles	68	58	.540	5 1/2
San Diego	62	63	.406	11
Colorado	53	72	.424	—

COMPLETE RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tampa Bay 11, Baltimore 10; Minnesota 6, Toronto 3; Texas 8, N.Y. Yankees 1; Chicago White Sox 13, Kansas City 12; Anaheim 4, Boston 2; Seattle 10, Detroit 1; Cleveland 5, Oakland 4, 11 innings.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 10, Milwaukee 3; Atlanta 6, San Diego 3; Arizona 6, Pittsburgh 0; Montreal 7, San Francisco 1; Florida 0, Los Angeles 6, Cincinnati 3; St. Louis 1; Philadelphia 2, Houston 1; N.Y. Mets 2, Colorado 1.

AP

Profound disappointment

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

LAST Sunday at the Big Dome before a delirious sellout crowd of 15,467, the Philippine Basketball Association conferred on Danny Ildefonso of defending champion San Miguel Beer and Antonio Lang of no-quit Batang Red Bull the "Best Player" and "Best Import" awards, respectively, of this year's PBA Commissioner's Cup. Their selection was roundly cheered because they stood clearly above the rest in this bruising conference.

But the celebration was spoiled the following Wednesday night when Ildefonso and Lang question: Are they deserving of the PBA awards?

Ildefonso tallied only four points, one of the lowest in his checkered career, while the much-ballyhooed and usually high-scoring Lang, also shot four points, the lowest score made by an import in the 26-year history of the PBA.

What went wrong?

In the case of Ildefonso, the tight guarding of tall men Davonn Harp, Kerby Raymundo and Mick Pennisi probably accounted for his low score, but Lang's all-time low was totally unexpected, making most people suspect that he made *benta* which, like it or not, tarnished his once wholesome image.

"Lang that Wednesday night was not the same Antonio Lang I saw before," said Thunder coach Yeng Guiao after Red Bull nosed out San Miguel, 79-77, to take an important 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series. "He was completely out of focus, not defending well and, certainly, not scoring the way he used to do."

Yesterday afternoon, franchise owner George Chua was scheduled to meet Lang, an NBA veteran and Duke University standout to ask him what his problem was. Was he sick, tired or hurting that night? What really bothered him? What would be Red Bull's next move for Game 6 today? *Abangan*.

* * *

SAVING GRACE. Sports in this strife-torn country is in bad shape and needs a knight in shining armor to rescue it from its present predicament. Worse, even the Philippine Sports Commission, the government agency tasked to promote sports for the well-being of the people, is having some difficulty doing its job because it is not well-funded unlike the various departments like defense, education, foreign affairs, health and natural resources which receive huge outlay for their upkeep.

But despite this unsettling situation, many organizations and sports leaders have managed to survive and promote their sports by tapping the private sector instead of begging for money from the government.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Inter-provincial chess tomorrow

THE COUNTRY'S chess scene comes alive starting tomorrow, Aug. 25, when the 2001 National Chess Federation of the Philippines Inter-Provincial Chess team Championship reels off at the People's Center in Balanga City, Bataan. NCFP president and Grandmaster Eugene Torre reiterated his gratitude to Gov. Leonardo "Ding" Roman, who has taken the lead in ensuring that the coming tournament will be a resounding success.

Unbeaten Suico battles Aussie Aug. 31

UNDEFEATED Philippine junior lightweight champion Randy Suico faces the toughest test of his career when he battles Australian champion Karim Nashar in the featured bout of a blockbuster quadruple main event at the Ynares Center in Antipolo on Aug. 31.

Suico, No. 6 in the World Boxing Council, has an impressive record of 12 knockouts in 14 wins and is acknowledged as one of the brightest prospects for a world title.

Nashar boasts of 9 knockouts in 14 wins including KO victories over Filipinos Roberto Ruiz and two over Efren Legaspino.

The fight card titled "K.O. @ ANTIPOLO" is promoted jointly by Gov. Casimiro "Ito" Ynares and Vic del Rosario, president of the Viva Entertainment Group.

It will also feature three prospective world champions from Cebu, home of the late all-time great, Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, who reigned as world junior lightweight champion for nearly seven-and-a-half years.

Former WBA minimum weight champion Joma Gamboa takes on tough Thai No.3 Samransak Singmanassak in a final tune-up bout before he takes a shot at the world title against the winner of the Chana Porpaoin—Yutaka Niida title fight in Yokohama on Aug. 25.

In a Cebu vs Bangkok minimum weight challenge, flashy Noel Tuñacao, the Philippines' No. 2 contender, battles former world champion Songkram Porpaoin in what promises to be a 10-round war. Unbeaten Rodel Mayol, the No. 1-contender, clashes with gutsy Pigmy Muangchaiya, Thailand's No.2.

Nashar is a flamboyant fighter who is in the same mould as Nedal Hussein who engaged IBF super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao in a bruising and bitter battle last year before referee Carlos Padilla stopped the bout due to a nasty gash on Hussein's cheek in the eighth.

SUICO (right) shown with Nashar.

Nashar said he was eager to avenge the controversial loss suffered by Hussein and warned, "your Filipino champion is in trouble."

Gamboa (30-6-1, 21 KO's) has the experience over Samransak Singmanassak, the Thai No. 3 slugger with a record of 11 knockouts in 13 victories while veteran Tunacao (34-5-2, 15 KO's) is certain to have a rough time against Porpaoin, the former world champion who has a card of 20-2-1 with 11 KO's.

Five-time national amateur champion Mayol, another ring sensation from Cebu has 6 knockouts in 7 wins while Muangchaiya sports a 9-2-2-3 KO's slate.

Tyson-Nielsen fight Oct. 13

NEW YORK—Mike Tyson's 10-round fight against Brian Nielsen originally scheduled for Sept. 8 will be Oct. 13 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The new date was confirmed Wednesday by Showtime, which will televise the bout in the United States. *AP*

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Pagunsan keeps 7-stroke margin

WITH Juvic Pagunsan's margin just too big, the field knows too well it could be time to raise the white flag.

The intermittent rains made things a little difficult for Pagunsan a day after he matched the course record but a one-over-par 73 yesterday still left his seven-stroke lead untouched after the third round of the Canlubang Amateur Open golf championship.

Though there were slight movements from down below, Pagunsan's 209 total for three days at Canlubang South virtually secured for the DHL Open titlist his second major crown at his home course.

Solomon Gines got back to second with an even-par 72 for 216.

Yesterday's weather in Canlubang wasn't as bad as in Metro Manila which was drenched by a continuous downpour that resulted to heavy flooding. Playing conditions, however, were difficult due to the soft and muddy fairways.

Carmelette Villaroman, meanwhile, held on to the driver's seat from start to finish, winning the 54-hole ladies division by three strokes.

Villaroman kept her SEA Games teammates, Heidi Chua and Ruby Chico, at bay with a 76 for 227 to win by three strokes. Chua scored a 77 and Walker closed out with a 78. Lina de Guzman finished four strokes behind at 231. *Jong Arcano*

Sta. Elena pulls away in Luzvimin

CEBU—Carina Ricamonte and Therese Dabao combined for 55 points as Sta. Elena pulled away by 13 points in the Diamond division after the penultimate round of the 2001 Luzvimin Golf Invitational tournament at the Cebu Country Club course here.

Ricamonte tallied 48 while Dabao backed her up with 47, providing the needed cushion for Sta. Elena against a Bacolod squad that drew a day-best 50 points from jungolf standout Anya Tanpinco.

Tami Leung and Venice Godio had similar 41s for Sta. Elena which had 177 for the day and 345 for 36 holes. Bacolod was at 332 and Aguinaldo at 319 going to the final round of the event which has Philippine Airlines as major sponsor.

Villamor banked on Masa Tsai's big effort of 40 markers to overtake Apo for the Pearl division lead.

The Villamor ladies, also getting 34 from Mayee Liaw, 32 from Ting Puzon and 28 from Mary Jane Hernandez, pounced on a measly output by Apo to vault ahead by four.

Villamor, six behind after Round 1, inched ahead with a 272. It is now just a two-way fights as Apo (268) was far ahead of the third-running Victorias (213) and Camp John Hay (193).

Baguio Country Club, meanwhile, was the provisional leader in the Ruby division, leading Pamplona by one with its 265, Manila Golf was third at 255 and Club Filipino fourth at 179.

WAZZZZUP ?
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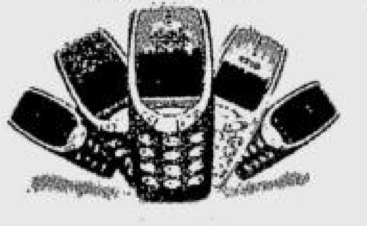

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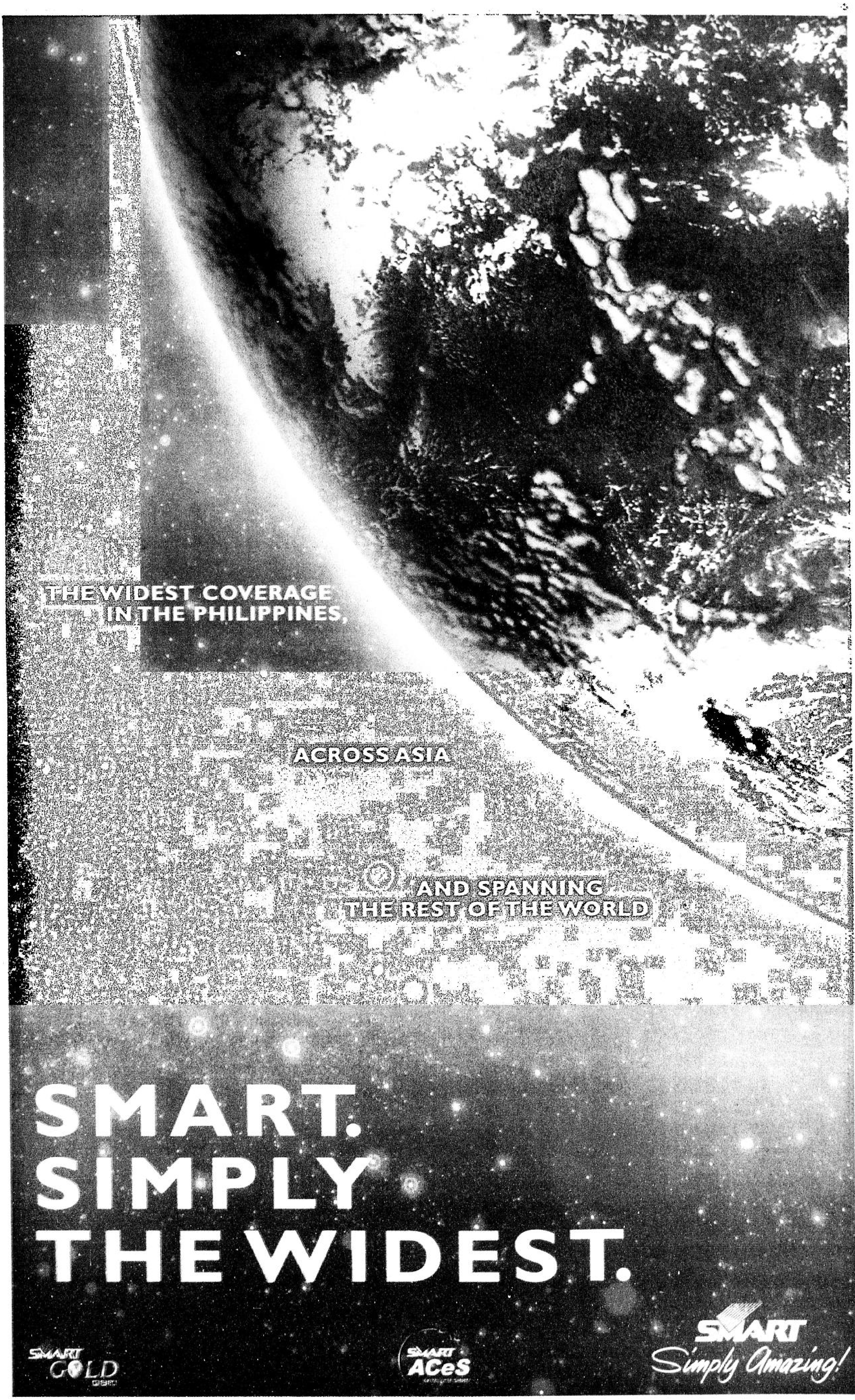
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METRO

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Rains trigger QC landslide

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE GROUND shook, a mango tree fell and then came a landslide. When the ground was still again, four people were found injured.

The landslide was set off by the rains in a slum in Quezon City yesterday.

The heavy monsoon rains also submerged large portions of Metro Manila and outlying areas, stranding thousands of commuters.

Classes in all levels were suspended while government workers were sent home yesterday afternoon.

Noel Cervito, 37, and his daughter April, 4, Nelia Morales, 33, and Maria Sorio, 34, were hurt when the landslide destroyed their home

RAINS TRIGGER/ A24

DENNIS SABANGAN

SOIL loosened by rains collapsed on shanties in Barangay Commonwealth.

Kids orphaned by Manor fire need your help

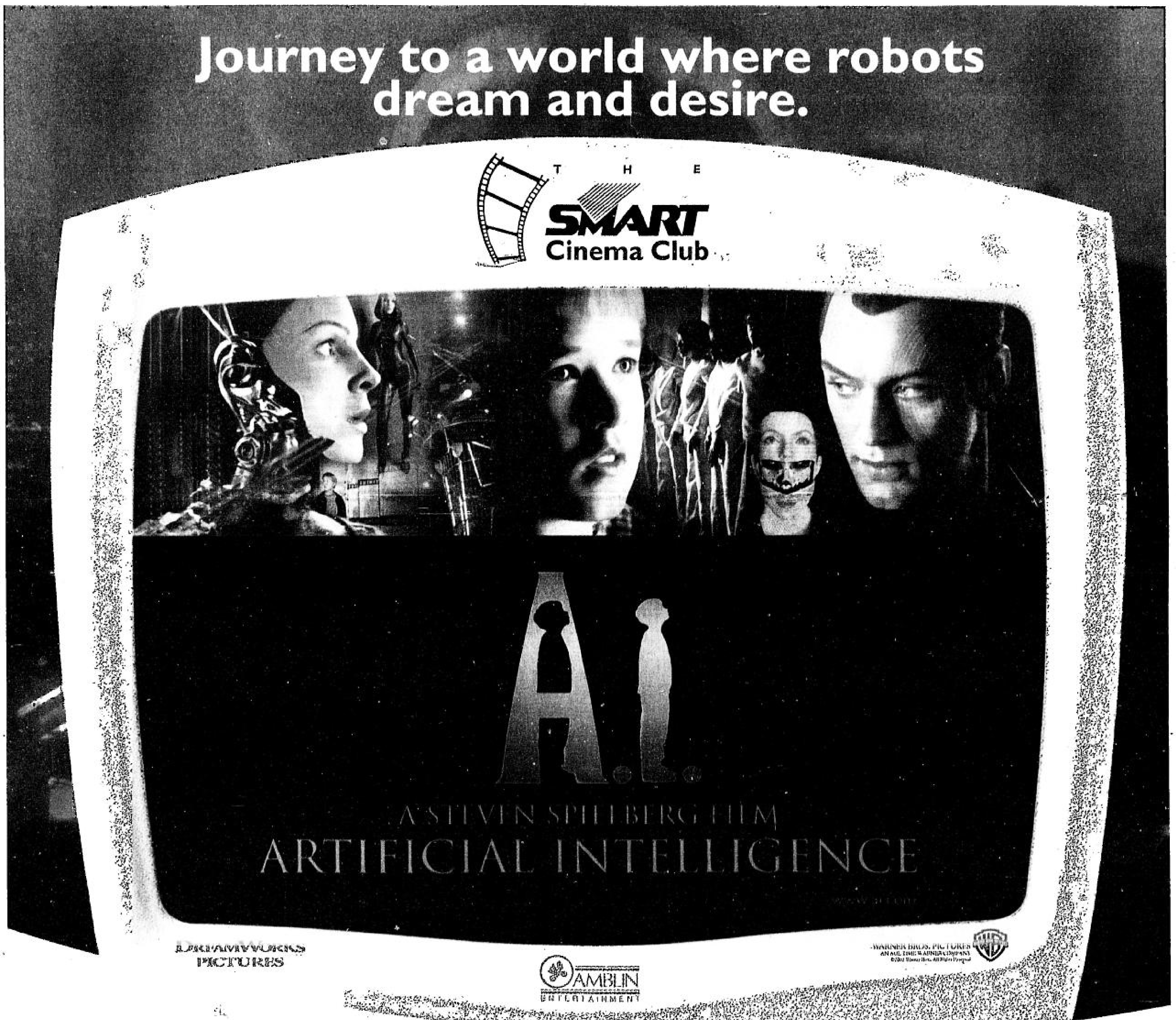
BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

SIBLINGS aged 3 months and 3 years old are among the children orphaned by last Saturday's dawn fire at Manor Hotel in Quezon City, the worst hotel fire ever that hit the country.

At least 12 Born Again couples and several married individuals were among the 75 people who died in the fire.

Born Again groups have ap-

KIDS ORPHANED/ A24



Invite all your friends to join the club and you may win exclusive premiere tickets!
All club members can get access to all the official Artificial Intelligence animated screensavers, operator logos, group graphics, and picture messages.

Official Artificial Intelligence logos

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AITITLEI2 (Operator Logo/Group Graphic)
AITITLE (Picture Message/Screen Saver)
AITEXT (Picture Message/Screen Saver)

To join the Smart Cinema Club, key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to 239. You will receive instructions for the next registration steps.
To invite friends to join, key in **INVITE** <your friends' numbers> and send to 239. You can invite up to 3 friends at one time.
To check # of points accumulated, type **1POINTS** and send to 239.
To receive more information on different commands, key in **HELP** <command> and send to 239.

To Get A.I....	Key In...
Logo List Of Keywords	LOGO AI and send to 239
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP AI and send to 239
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture Messages List Of Keywords	PIC AI and send to 239
Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen Savers List Of Keywords	SAVER AI and send to 239
Screen Savers**	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
To Get Movie Trivia Questions	PLAY MT and send to 239
To Answer Movie Trivia Questions	<number of your answer> and send to 239

*Available on selected Nokia handsets
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Ex: <What are you?> and send to 287.
You will then receive a reply from a **CHATBOT**.
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Promo Mechanics:

1. All Smart Cinema Club members can win 2 tickets to the advance screening of Artificial Intelligence on Sept. 2, 8:00 p.m., at the Robinsons Galleria Movieworld by using the INVITE command to ask friends to join the club. The top 100 members with the hightest points will win free 2 A.I. premiere tickets each.
2. Winners will be determined through a computer generated program on August 29 at 10:00 a.m. Winners will be notified by text message and a call to their registered mobile number.
3. Winners can claim their tickets at the DDB Phils. office, 9/F Legaspi Suites, Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City from Aug. 29, 2 p.m. to Aug. 31, 10 p.m. Or at the Smart Cinema Club Booth at the Robinsons Galleria Cinema on the premiere night.
4. From Aug. 22 to 28, Smart Money cardholders who use their card to purchase 2 tickets of any movie showing at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria or Ermita will get 2 free A.I. premiere tickets. Winners can claim their tickets by calling the Smart Money Hotline at 845-7777.
5. Promo is for the Greater Metro Manila area only.

See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1295. Series of 2001.

All text messages sent will be charged ₱2.50 each.
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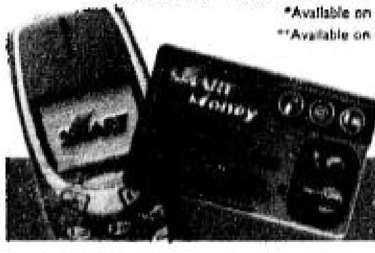

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Use your Smart Money to buy 2 movie tickets from Aug. 22 to 28 and get 2 Artificial Intelligence premiere tickets -- FREE!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1293. Series of 2001.

Police insist they have 'right suspect' in Hayashi killing

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE yesterday insisted they have got the right suspect in the killing of Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi.

Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, chief of Caloocan Station Investigation and Intelligence, said investigators have built a strong case against primary suspect Alex Ilagan, 31, Hayashi's alleged lover and masseur.

Borromeo's statement came a day after chief inquest prosecutor Oscar Yu recommended the dismissal of the charges of robbery with homicide that police had filed against Ilagan.

Borromeo claimed that the city prosecutor did not dismiss the case but filed homicide charges against Ilagan before the regional trial court.

Borromeo clarified that Ilagan is still being held at the Caloocan City jail.

The Inquirer could not reach city prosecutor Ramon Rodrigo to confirm Borromeo's claim.

Investigators were apparently shamed after Yu wrote in his resolution that they had deliberately suppressed and falsified evidence against Ilagan.

Yu hit policemen for not including in the case against Ilagan the test results of the fingerprints found in Hayashi's house the day after the killing. None of the 13 sets of fingerprints apparently matched Ilagan's.

Yu argued that police deliberately asked primary witness Reynaldo Ortillano to execute two sets of affidavits to strengthen the case against Ilagan.

Borromeo claimed it was "normal" for witnesses to change the contents of their affidavits.

He said the prosecutor's office did not include robbery in the case against Ilagan since "robbery was very hard to prove."

Guard pushed to death by brod

A SECURITY guard died after he hit his head hard on the floor when his older brother pushed him while they were arguing in their home in Sta. Ana, Manila before dawn yesterday.

But Nicholas Flaminio, 20, could also have died from a heart ailment, according to his older brother Gener, 27, who had pushed him during their fight. Gener said he never meant to kill his brother.

SPO1 Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District homicide section said Gener was celebrating his birthday in their house at 1763 Road 7 in Fable Estate on Wednesday when an argument broke out between the brothers around midnight.

Police said Gener pushed Nicholas, who fell head first on the concrete floor.

Gener and the other guests were shocked when Nicholas' body twitched and then lay still, police said. Nicholas was brought to the Ospital ng Maynila where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police said there was no sign of physical injury on Nicholas' body.

An autopsy would show if Nicholas had a heart ailment and died because of it, police said. Otherwise, Gener would be charged with homicide, they added. *Jerome Aning*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 24, 2001
Bartholomew, Apostle

1st Reading: *Rev 21:9-14*
Gospel: *Jn 1:45-51*

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one that Moses wrote about in the Law, and the prophets as well: he is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

Nathanael replied, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said: 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things than that.

Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Commentary:

Nathanael of Cana, also called Bartholomew, was a companion of Philip and belonged to the original group of disciples of Jesus. His name appears in all the lists of the apostles. Also in the Book of Acts he is mentioned as one of the apostles on whom the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost. According to today's reading he is the first apostle to confess Jesus as the Son of God and king of Israel. Because of his faith, Jesus promises that he will see the Son of Man in his glory. This is probably an indication of his future prominent role in the Church. According to tradition he preached the Gospel in Greater Armenia and India. He died as a martyr for his faith.

Father, we thank you for the wonderful example of faith you gave us in Saint Bartholomew. Grant that we also may share our faith with our brothers and sisters.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

4 killed in smashup

By Carmela Reyes,
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Christian V. Esguerra

THREE World War II veterans and their companion were killed while 18 other people were seriously hurt on Wednesday when their van smashed into an Isuzu truck along the North Luzon Expressway in Barangay Duhat, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Killed were Jose Abon, 75; Dominga Cunanan, 74; and Leonila Panginin, 72, and their companion Langit Doronfo, all from Laur, Nueva Ecija.

Police said the four and their 18 companions came from the Philippine Veterans Office in Quezon City to claim their benefits and were on their way back home when the left tire of their van burst on the expressway about 5 p.m.

The van ran smack into an approaching Isuzu truck, police said.

Three of the injured—Lolita, Melanie, and Domingo Cunanan—were taken to the Manila Central University Hospital. The rest were taken to the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City, police said.

Philippine National Construction Co. patrol teams who were on the scene said the impact of the collision threw the victims several meters on the embankment of the south lane of the expressway.

Van driver Pablo Bumanlag survived with slight injuries and is now detained at the Bocaue town jail. He was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicides and multiple serious physical injuries and damage to property.

Coach Yeng can't go on winning like this

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

RETOLD, Game 5 of the Red Bull-San Miguel championship series should read like how coach Yeng Guiao wrestled with an on-game nightmare and went home happy and victorious.

Look, no coach in his right mind would gamble with an import, an American reinforcement, who should have, by the way he played, been recuperating a good many miles away from the site of battle.

The place for Anthony Lang on Wednesday was, properly, not on the hardcourt, not even on the bench, but in a hospital.

How coach Guiao survived the Lang nightmare, used experience, wit and cunning to win and take a 3-2 lead over Jong Uichico in their duel for the PBA Commissioner's Cup could ultimately end up the turning point in the championship race.

Well, Guiao could have kept a better hold of himself if Lang had been his lone problem. The bigger mess that boggled Yeng's mind was the import on the other side.

OK. Nate Johnson did play like he was ready to be repacked and shipped back home in Games One and Two of the series. But, suddenly on Wednesday, he sizzled like he was an Air Apparent, a candidate to fill the shoes of Michael Jordan.

***

For starters, Johnson finished with 43 big points, going nearly perfect from the 3-point area in the first half.

And Lang, the series' best import who was a terror on both ends of the court earlier in the title race? Well, the guy did not actually go blank. He managed to finish with only 4 points, missing practically all his crucial tries from the free-throw area. He did make sporadic forays but was often caught operating on visibly weak knees.

Let me confess that I had tipped friends, including my trusted office teammate Arnold Galimba, about the good chances of Red Bull winning and going up in the title race because, unlike in two previous defeats, it had an intact line-up on Wednesday.

Yes, I had never suspected Red Bull would be rolling on a flat tire, until Tony Lang reported lost and listless.

Now, please don't start suspecting something nasty about the guy. In fairness to Mr. Lang, I had read in one interview that he had gone to church more often to pray that his original vitality be restored. It seemed the guy got sort of sapped by the terrible demands of his pillaring role at Red Bull. Reliable sources also bared Lang could be wasting precious energy on more shapely interests.

He begged for the old strength and spring but these inborn gifts were nowhere near his jersey on Wednesday.

***

Of course, Tony Lang went on to score three blocks. He also had one crucial technical free throw in the homestretch that, slim as it was, helped prop and goad his team in the suspenseful final seconds.

Now, what's being asked is: How did coach Yeng survive the nightmare and win?

Guiao later said he doesn't believe in momentum, he doesn't believe in pressures, all that he needed was an intact line-up and he could take it from there.

Needless to say, Guiao is now convinced that the underdog Batang Red Bull has a solid, more potent assembly of players than the highly favored San Miguel Beermen.

The referees? They can't be perfect. They seem to be making honest mistakes like Col. Victor Corpus.

There was the disputed non-call on Danny Seigle who crashed to the floor after a clash of bodies in the final seconds of Game One. There was that hideous offensive foul slapped on Tony Lang after the guy scored (it was naturally nullified) on a balletic lay-off that saw him fading away a bit in Game Three.

In fact, on Wednesday, the house again got divided on whether or not there was a foul committed on Nate Johnson after he took that undergoal stab in the final 1.9 seconds.

It was next reported that there was a post-game commotion involving Red Bull enforcer Jay Mendoza, San Miguel's Danny Ildefonso and Nate Johnson who were said to have engaged in furious trash talk on their way out.

Involved parties have been summoned to the PBA Commissioner's office to shed light on that near-fisticuff.

There, predictably, would be claims and counter-claims. Eyewitnesses will have to be called in.

Meanwhile, majority of those who witnessed last Wednesday's match at the Araneta Coliseum appear convinced that Game 5 was won mainly on the bench, with Guiao, the unlikely winner, emphasizing sharpness and guile in the shuffling of men.

He even succeeded in salvaging a flat tire on the way to the finish line. Guiao, of course, knows he can't go on winning like this.

Job fair

ALPHA International Employment Services, a job placement agency based in Los Angeles, California, is inviting nursing graduates and registered nurses with or without CGFNS to the biggest nursing job fair in Manila today and tomorrow at the Leyte, Samar and Panay Rooms of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Alpha president Shirley Villanueva said US hospital representatives from California, Arizona, New York and Utah are in town to interview job applicants during the two-day job fair.

Interested applicants are requested to bring two sets of resumé, nursing license, employment and training certificates, diploma, transcript of record, marriage certificate and four copies of 2x2 photo. For more information, call (632) 713-9313, 713-9876, fax number 713-9309 or e-mail at greencard@alphainternational.com.

'Sudden death' for Max chicken resto

A PART of the house that fried chicken built in the Philippines has closed its doors after 56 years of operation.

On Tuesday, Max Restaurant on Roces Avenue in Quezon City ceased operations after management allegedly refused to negotiate with the employees' union for their collective bargaining agreement (CBA), according to a statement from the QC Max Original Labor Association-National Union of Workers in Hotel Restaurant and Allied Industries (QC-Mola-Nuwhrain).

The statement said QC-Mola-Nuwhrain is the sole bargaining agent for the restaurant employees. It called the closure of Max illegal.

QC-Mola-Nuwhrain president Allan Llave said the union had submitted to management its proposed CBA in November 2000. But he said "management is hell bent not to negotiate with the union. And instead of meeting with us, they devised a scheme to artificially (let the restaurant) die...through cancellation of its bookings and reservations from its regular guests and customers."

Eventually, the restaurant closed down, Llave said.

Today, the protesting employees will stage a condemnation and prayer rally at 3 p.m. in front of the restaurant at the corner of Scout Tuazon and Roces Avenue, the statement said.

Nuwhrain is a member of the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), a labor center composed of different labor federations, workers association and workers alliances, and of the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF), a worldwide organization of trade unions in hotel, restaurant, food and allied industries.

4 nabbed for dumping Taguig trash in Parañaque

FOUR garbage truck drivers were arrested in Parañaque City after they were caught on Wednesday night dumping garbage which they allegedly collected from Taguig households.

Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque City chief of police, identified the drivers as Sonny Nicolas, 36; Joseph Mangahas, 25; Santiago Enriquez, 26; and Danilo Matias, 19. All are residents of San Miguel, Bulacan, police said.

Barangay watchmen and some policemen were patrolling the vicinity of the Rodriguez Compound on Ninoy Aquino Avenue when they spotted four dump trucks parked in the area. Police said the patrol team saw the trucks dumping garbage in the compound.

Authorities arrested the four truck drivers and detained them at the Parañaque jail. The drivers said the trucks contained garbage collected from Taguig.

The drivers would be charged with violating MMDA Ordinance No. 96-009, which prohibits the dumping of garbage in areas not specified by the MMDA. *Alcuin Papa*

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Rains trigger QC . . .

(From page A23)

and four other shanties atop a 20-foot high bluff in Purok Nine on IBP Road in Barangay Commonwealth, said Allan Verches of the Quezon City Department of Public Order and Safety.

City officials evacuated residents of 50 other shanties from the area.

Verches said the landslide happened at 9:10 a.m. after heavy rains loosened the soil in the bluff.

Witnesses said the ground shook before the landslide. When they went out of their shanties, they saw a mango tree about to fall.

"The tree fell on Cervito's house and its roots loosened up more soil," Verches said. "That's how the landslide began."

Rescuers were able to respond immediately and found Cervito tightly embracing his daughter and both were half-buried in mud and debris, said Milet Bindolio of the Quezon City rescue team.

Because of the heavy rains, Malacañang suspended work at 12:01 p.m. in all government offices, including government-owned and controlled corporations.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo issued Memorandum Circular No. 7 to allow government employees who made it to their offices in the morning to go home in the afternoon. Those who were stranded by the floods would not be marked absent, he added.

Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani announced the cancellation of classes in elementary and high school in both private and public schools effective at noon.

The Commission on Higher Education also suspended classes in colleges and universities in the metropolis.

Frank Marquez, radio operator of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, said several roads were underwater early yesterday while strong winds whipped up the waters of Manila Bay, making it dangerous to small craft.

The MMDA also said flood waters may take awhile to subside because of the continuous rains and canals clogged with garbage.

The MMDA yesterday also suspended its odd-even traffic scheme.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the number of traffic enforcers at critical intersections was doubled to keep traffic flowing. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa, Juliet L. Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera, Nelson F. Flores, AP***

Kids orphaned . . .

(From page A23)

pealed to the public to extend any form of support to the survivors and the victims' relatives.

Leaders of different Christian organizations have planned to put up a scholarship fund for the education of the orphaned children.

"We appeal to Good Samaritans to extend any assistance–cash, medicines, whatever–to the victims," said Pastor Faith Reyes, one of the first few people who arrived at Manor Hotel after the fire.

At least 10 of his closest pastor-friends died in the fire.

Yesterday, the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), to which more than 12,000 Born Again groups belong, commended the government officials whom they said acted swiftly in helping the victims.

PCEC also expressed support for Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte's efforts to pinpoint responsibility for the tragedy.

The PCEC said that while it had nothing to do with the three-day Destiny Conference at the Araneta Coliseum, which most of the victims were attending, it has been helping with the hospital bills of the survivors, the funerals of the victims and scholarships for orphaned children.

Those who want to help the victims ma[illegible]urse their donations to the PCEC at 62 Molave [illegible]ect 3, Quezon City.

Frisky puppies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

COOL dudes are supposed to be determinedly debonair men who don't get rattled even when everything appears to be falling apart around them.

In the "Cool Dudes" film, however, the three male leads come off more like frisky puppies than young gents who have mastered themselves and the world they live in.

In the teen flick, **Cogie Domingo, James Blanco** and **Danilo Barrios** play three friends on weekend lark at Subic, to catch the finals of a search for bikini beauties.

Right off the bat, they are conned by a pretty scalper who sells them fake tickets to the show. Then the movie develops each "dude's" story:

Blanco befriends a tomboy and convinces her to join the search. She transforms herself into a beauty and wins.

For his part, Domingo thinks that his father is meeting his young mistress at Subic, but he soon learns the less shocking truth. He goes on to fall for an accident-prone young woman.

Finally, Barrios catches up with the ticket scalper who tricked him, and discovers that she isn't the teen terror he thought she was. So, why did she sell him fake tickets? To make money to pay for her dad's "jueteng" debts. Oh.

The young leads' stories may initially look varied, but they actually share a common theme: that otherwise slap-happy kids are sometimes frustrated because they have less than perfect dads. How convenient!

Cogie's wealthy father generally ignores him, Danilo's dad is impoverished, the female scalper has to sell fake tickets to pay for her father's gambling debts, and James feels stifled by all the rules that he has to follow at home.

This "blame the old folks" tack is par for the course for teen flicks, so this movie covers some pretty predictable, humdrum territory.

On point of performance, the three male leads do equally well, given the shallow nature of the material they're given. Too bad, Danilo (a member of the Streetboys) wasn't given a dance number to showcase his terpsichorean talent to added advantage.

We can see James being developed as a romantic-dramatic leading man; Cogie as a young-adult lead who can play both dramatic and comedic roles; and Danilo as a comedy-musical performer.

"Cool Dudes" is sometimes so pat, hectic and shallow that it can be enjoyed mainly by adolescents and teenagers, its intended audience. Older viewers could get pretty frustrated with the movie's simplistic view of life.

And they could come up with testy questions like, "If the beauty search in the movie was expressly for bikini beauties, why weren't the contestants wearing bikinis?!"

Fun activities

ON Aug. 25, the Hallmark Channel and SkyCable will jointly hold an I-club get-together at Festival Mall in Alabang, starting at 3 p.m. The event features fun activities like face-painting, balloon sculpting, Hallmark Kids Classroom and a "Sesame Street" photo corner.

Children will also be treated to Hallmark kids film and video showings, as well as the personal appearance of Cookie Monster.

The Hallmark Channel Kids Block of entertaining, educational and imaginative shows may be viewed on weekdays from 7 to 8 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m., and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

In other activity, "Sesame Street" mascots will go on a school tour of Metro Manila and Cebu. The tour showcases program episodes complete with interactive sessions for students.

Piano concert

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed pianist Ali Wood will give a concert, "Fingers," Aug. 25, 7 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

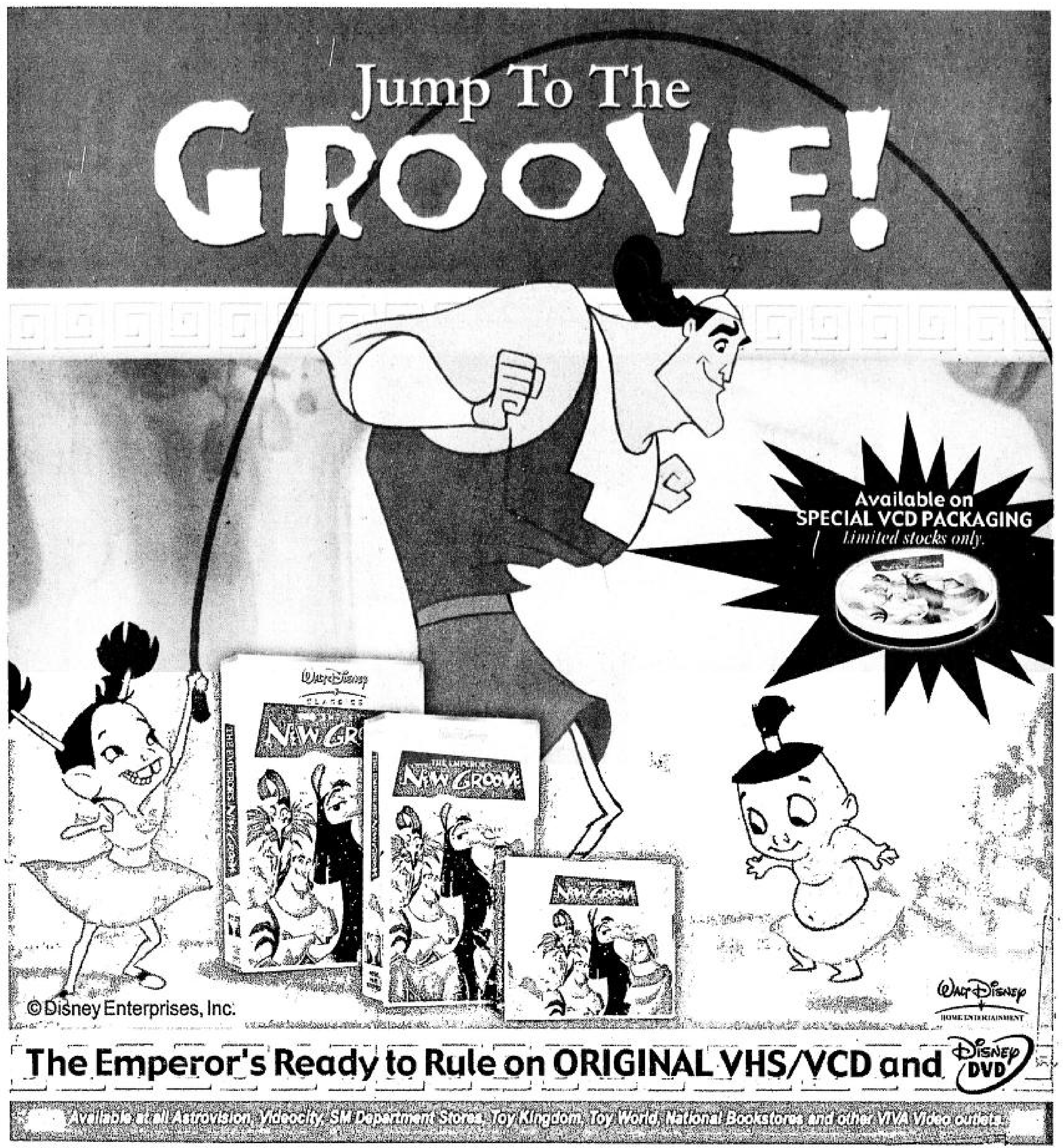
Wood's performance is part of a world tour which will also take her to Singapore, China, South Africa, Europe and South America.

"Fingers" is the story of a girl, a piano and some of the world's most famous music.

Wood is the first Australian performer to debut at New York's Carnegie Hall since Dame Nellie Melba over a century ago.

Born in Brisbane, Wood is only 20 years old and has established herself as an accomplished international concert pianist. She has performed in Japan, Canada and the United States.

For inquiries, call 873-5714.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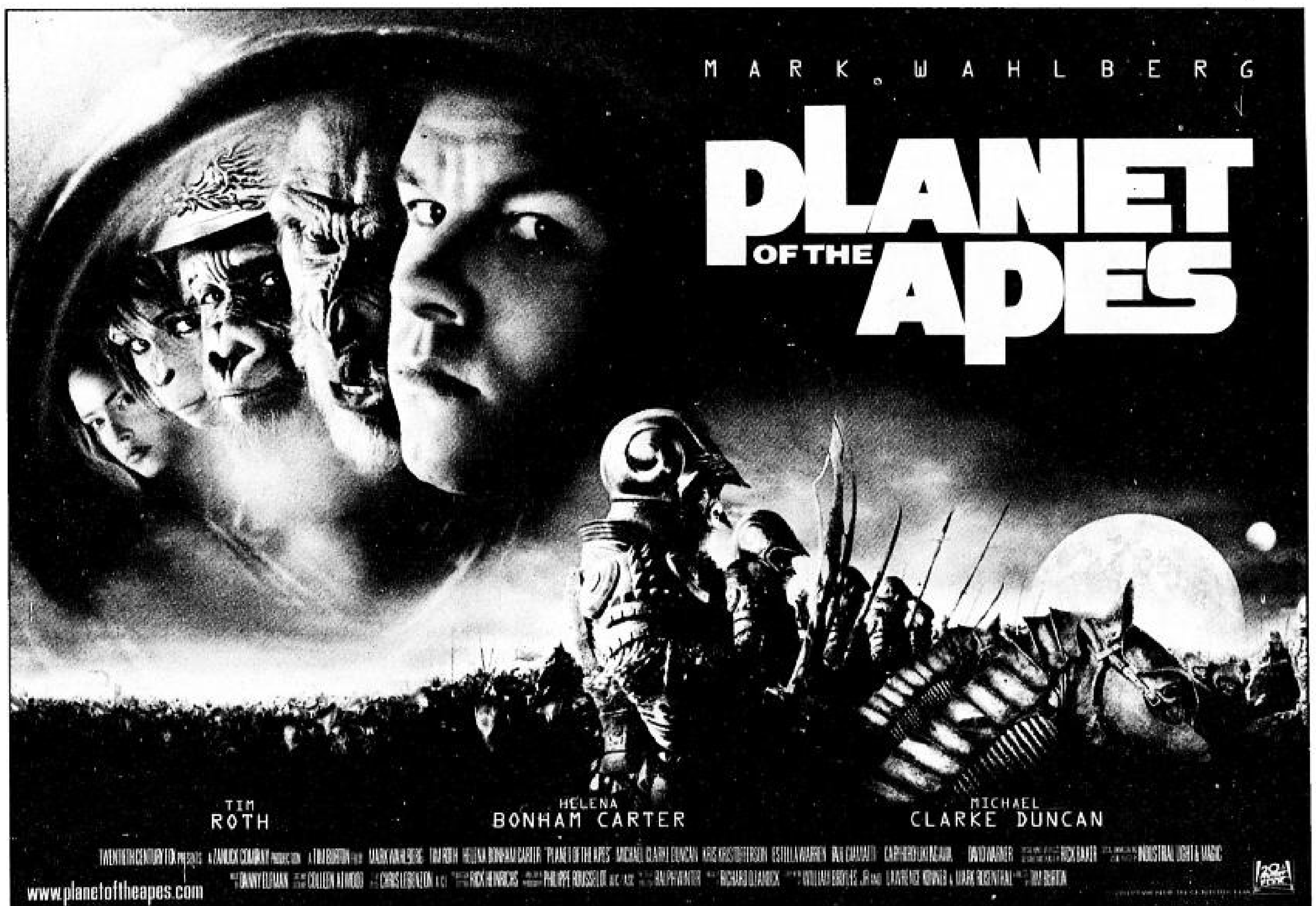
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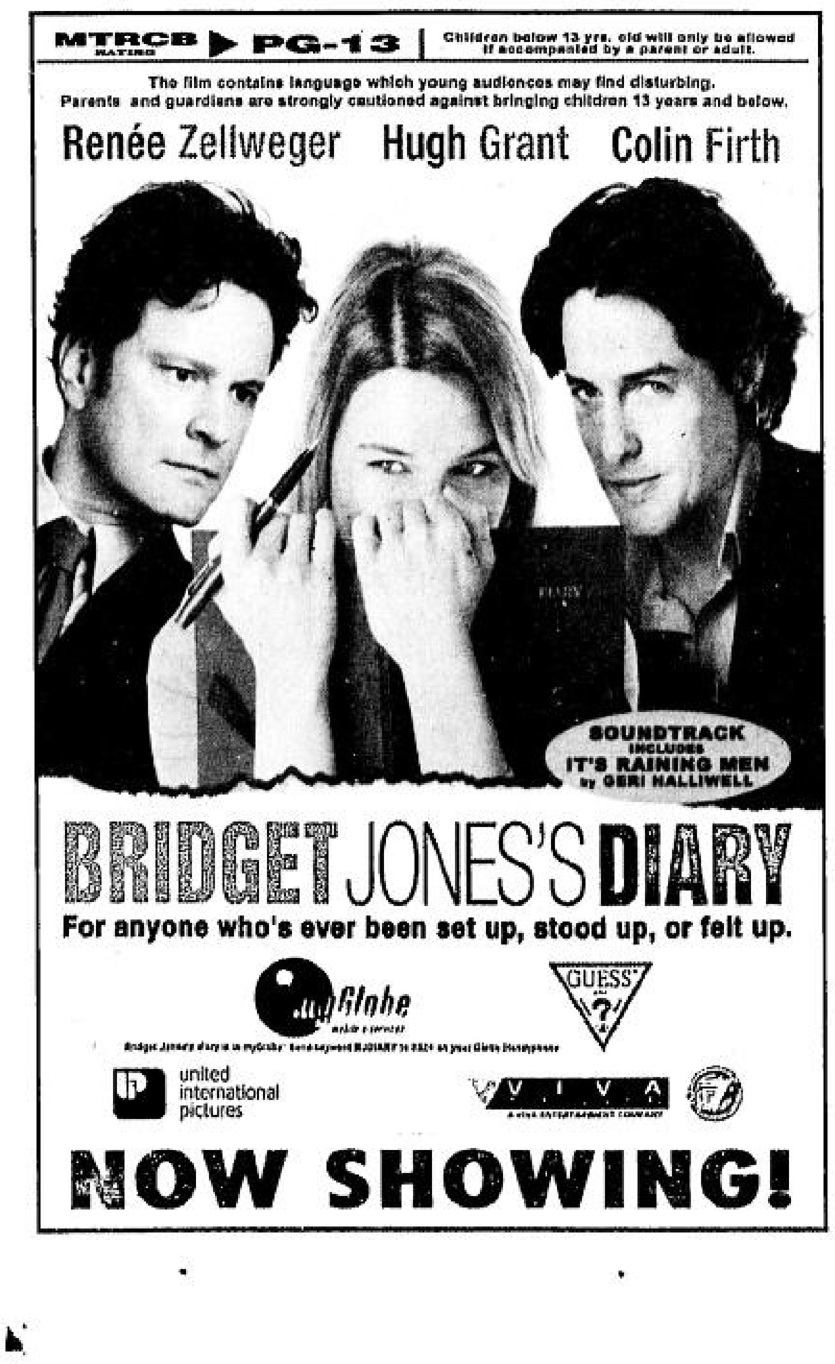
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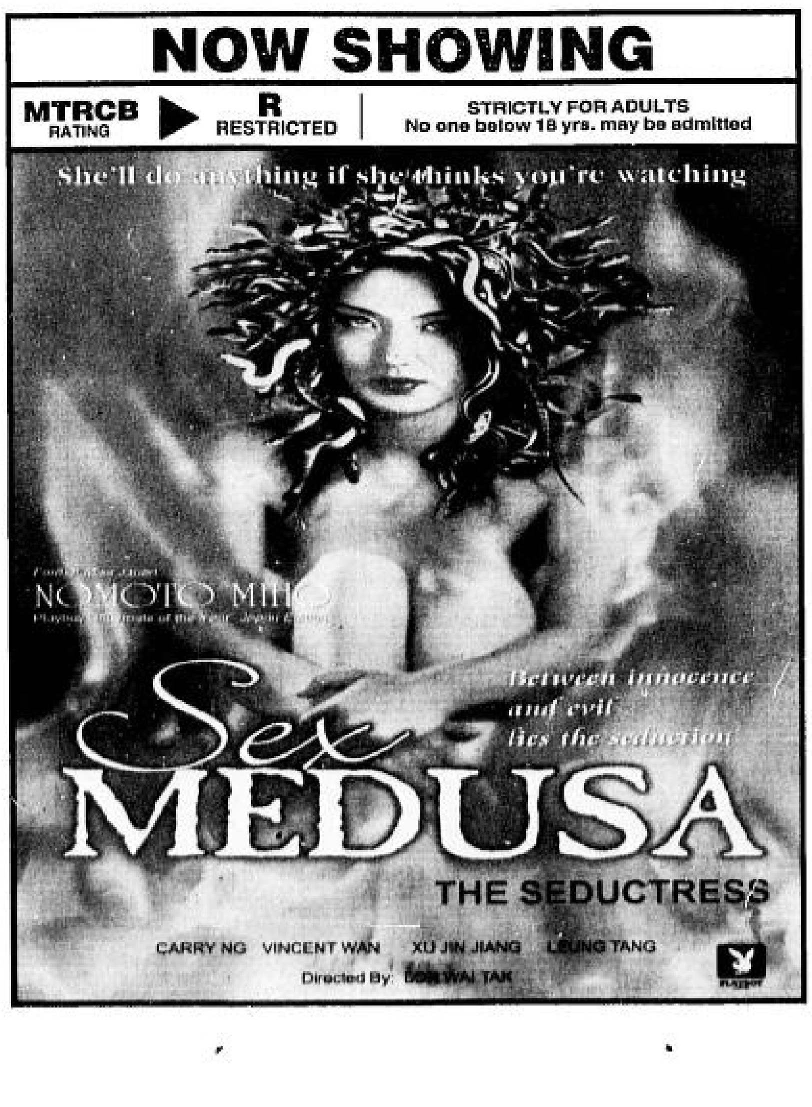
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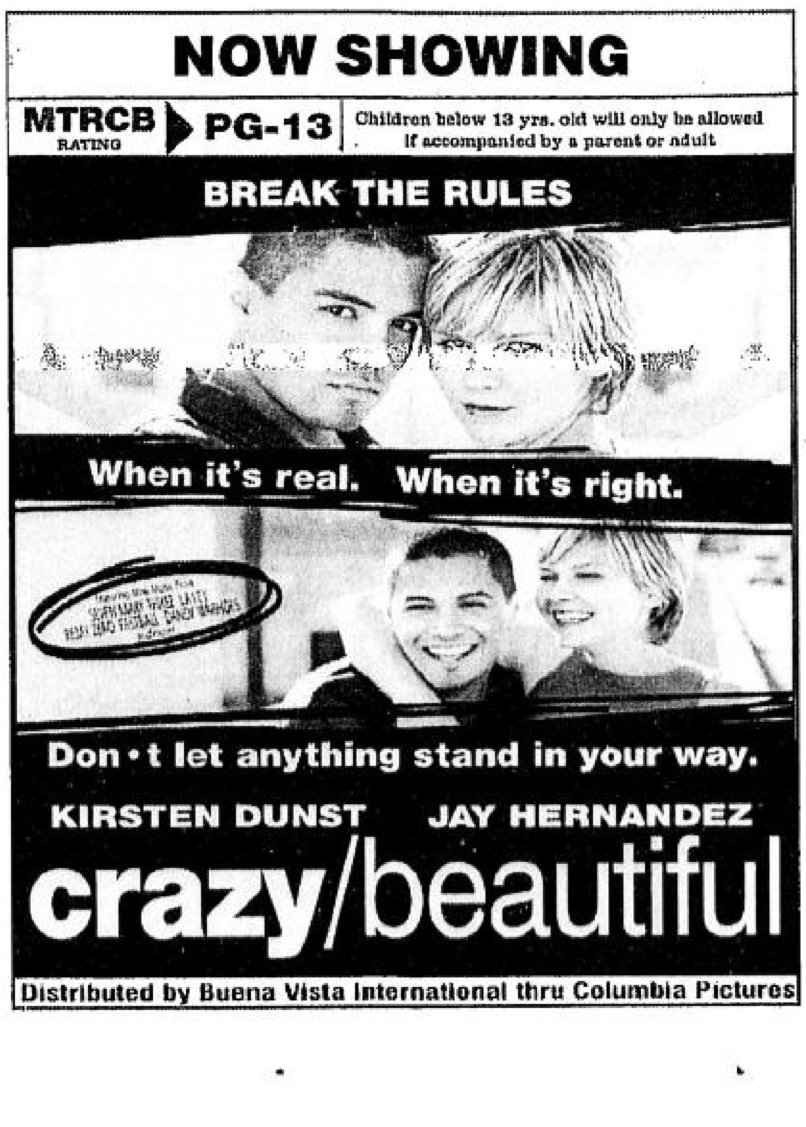
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crazy/beautiful
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Odyssey launches 'HHH' campaign

AVAILABLE in all participating Odyssey Record shops in the country are the hip-hop and hard rock CDs and tape cassettes of the hottest groups and performers in a special campaign called "Hip Hop and Hard Rock" (HHH) recently launched by MCA Universal.

The campaign runs until Sept. 30, during which buyers get special premium items.

Everyone who buys a CD or three cassettes gets a free sampler and a reward card. The reward card has four spaces for CD purchases and 6 for cassette purchases. To claim the corresponding premium items, the reward card has to be presented every time a purchase is made.

Included in the HHH campaign are "The Marshal Mathers LP" by Eminem, "Devil's Night" by D12, "Country Grammar" by Nelly and "Return of the Dragon" by Sisqo in the hip hop category, and "Take Off Your Pants & Jacket" by Blink 182, "Chocolate Starfish and the Hotdog Flavored Water" by Limp Bizkit, "Infest" by Paparoach and "Awake" by Godsmack in the hard rock category.

'Platinum' by Side A

THE ULTIMATE Side A greatest hits album, "Side A: The Platinum Collection," is now available in CDs and cassettes from Warner Music Philippines.

The 17-track compilation features the carrier single "If Only," from their gold-selling album "Will I Ever."

The other cuts include "Forevermore," "The Girl's So Right for Me," "So Many Questions," "Tell Me," "Let the Pain Remain," "Umagang Kay Ganda," "Anak" and "Foolish Heart.

For more of Asia's premier band and their music, tune in to MTV Asia on Channel 41.

DB8

The band that calls itself DB8 is attracting a growing number of followers with their crowd-drawing renditions of R&B, alternative and some pop.

DB8 performs Mondays at Art's Venue on Taft Avenue in Malate, Manila, and Saturdays at the Hard Rock Café at the Glorietta in Makati City.

Bonus ng Ulan
Rent 4 for 100 and get UMBRELLA FOR ONLY P49
Rent 2 with UMBRELLA FOR ONLY P129
Rent 4 for 100 and get WINDBREAKER FOR ONLY P99
Rent 2 with WINDBREAKER FOR ONLY P175
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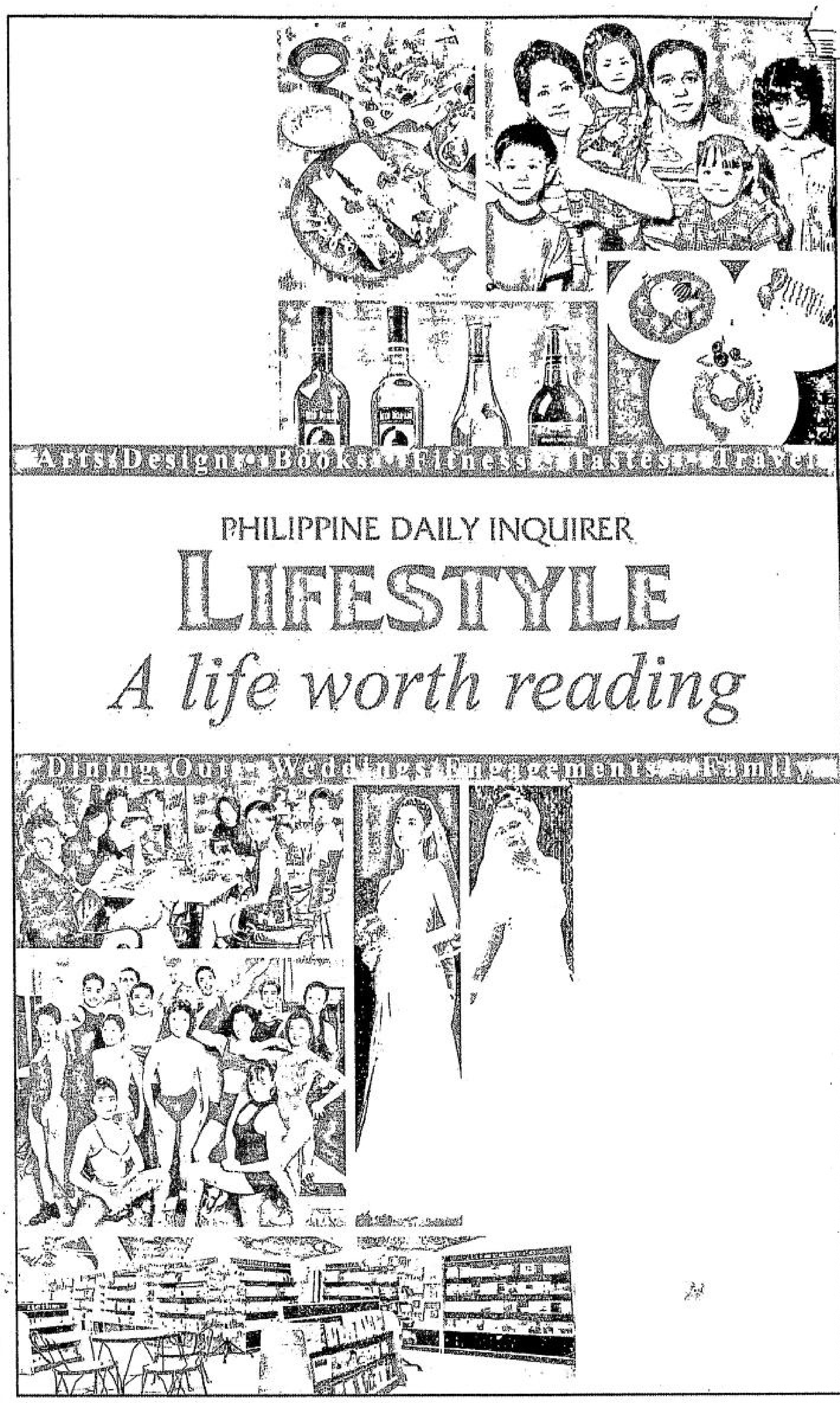

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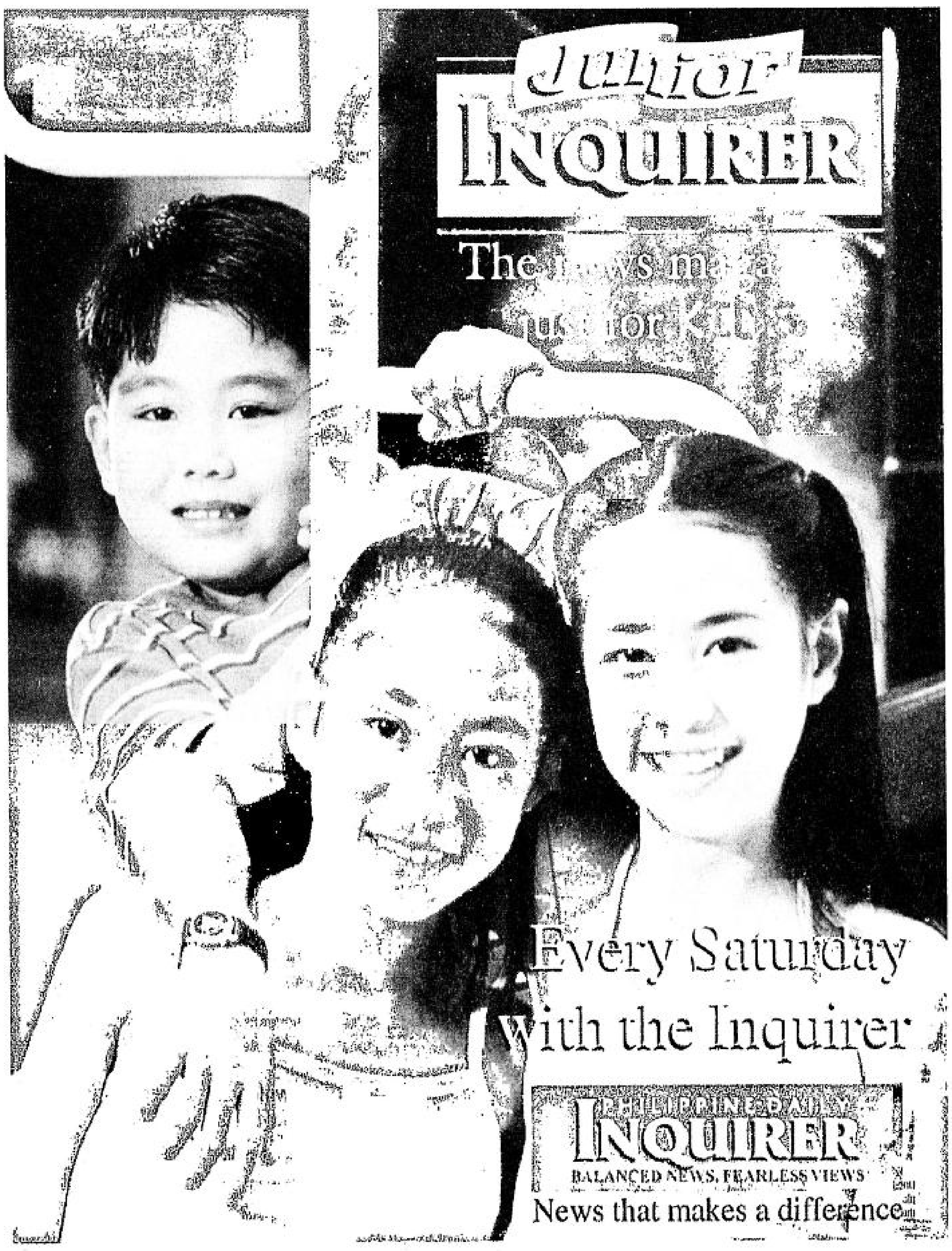

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
News that makes a difference

After Pops and Piolo, why not Sharon and Cogie?

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THAT may sound absurd, but now that megastar **Sharon Cuneta** is happily married to Sen. **Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan**, she can simply laugh off dalliances which can spawn intrigues in show biz.

Last Sunday at the birthday party of Regal Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde**, Sharon joked about being linked with younger actors after she saw **Pops Fernandez**.

"How come it's only Pops whom you are linking to **Piolo (Pascual)**?," Sharon smilingly said. "Why don't you link me to Cogie?"

Sharon even teased that the reason Pops is probably being linked to a younger guy is that people see her (Pops) as a "sex bomb."

"*Bakit, ano ba ang tingin niyo sa akin*, atomic bomb?," Sharon said, poking fun at her figure after she has given birth.

It's funny how Sharon will be linked to Cogie because the young actor has announced it's Sharon's daughter, **KC**, who is his biggest crush.

Mother's birthday

MOTHER Lily turned a year older last Sunday, Aug. 19 and she had a small dinner party at Summer Palace, the Chinese restaurant of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The Regal matriarch had just arrived from China the night before and she looked radiant in a velvet violet cheongsam.

The guests were a mix of show biz stars and politicians, including Senators **Loren Legarda, Ed Angara,** Kiko Pangilinan, Executive Secretary **Bert Romulo** and his family, action star **Rudy Fernandez** and wife **Lorna Tolentino, Susan Roces, Armida Siguion-Reyna** and lawyer-husband **Leonardo Siguion-Reyna.**

Others who were there include Pops Fernandez, **Diether Ocampo, Joyce Jimenez, Eric Quizon,** Piolo Pascual, **Judy Ann Santos, Assunta** and **Alessandra de Rossi** with their mom and manager **Manny Valera,** directors **Mel Chionglo** and **Chito Roño,** noted scriptwriter **Roy Iglesias,** "Cool Dudes" stars **Danilo Barrios** and **Cogie Domingo,** talent managers **Ethel Ramos, Dolor Guevarra, Girlie Rodis, Deo Endrinal, June Rufino, Joji Dingcong,** and **Malou Choa-Fagar** of TAPE Inc.

Mother Lily was joined by her hubby, Father **Remy,** and daughters **Roselle** and **Meme.**

Not intentional

IN THE SAME party, Piolo arrived with his "Bakit Di Totohanin?" costar Judy Ann Santos. However, when Pops came with Diether Ocampo and talent manager Deo Endrinal, Piolo was nowhere to be found.

The following day, we talked to Piolo and asked if he purposely avoided Pops. He said he didn't intentionally leave because he knew Pops was going to be there.

Piolo said he and Judy Ann left several minutes before Pops arrived. But he added he saw Pops earlier that day in "ASAP" and he even gave her a friendly kiss.

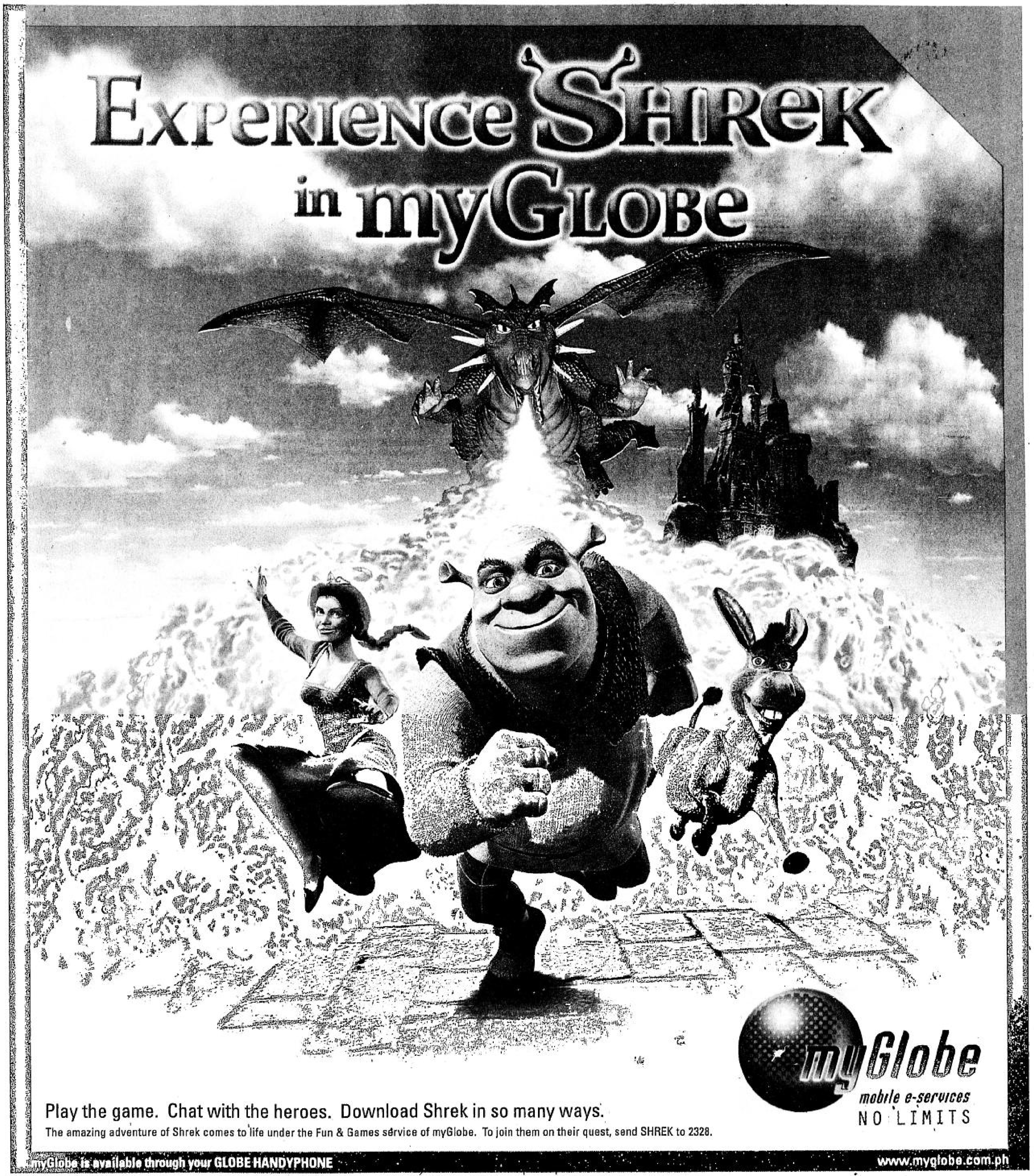
Martin's 'Souvenirs'

WHEN we first heard the title of **Martin Nievera's** latest CD, "Souvenirs," we readily told him it's also the title of the album of noted singer-composer **Jose Mari Chan.**

AFTER/ A29

LEDESMA. To be joined by daughter Isabella onstage

NIEVERA. Another one-word album title



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Play the game.

How well do you know Shrek and Princess Fiona? Play the game! Key-in SHREKREG <nickname> <name of character you want to play: SHREK or PRINCESS>. Send to 2328.

Example: SHREKREG BIGMAN SHREK

Once you reach the castle in the game, you will be rewarded with the chance to chat with other players. To do so, key-in SHREK TO <name of player> <message>. Send to 2328. To get a list of all the Shreks and Princesses in the castle, just key-in SHREK LIST and send to 2328.

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6	RADYO
7	IRA
8	BROTHEWRHOOD

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2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	SEX MEDUSA
7	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
8	ANIMAL
9	RADYO
10	MOULIN ROUGE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	SHREK
5	BROTHERHOOD
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
9	RADYO
10	MOULIN ROUGE
11	JURASSIC PARK 3
12	IRA

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
4	SHREK
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON
6	MOULIN ROUGE
7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
8	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
9	PLANET OF THE APES
10	SEX MEDUSA
11	RADYO
12	ANIMAL

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	MOULIN ROUGE
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	ANIMAL
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
7	SEX MEDUSA
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
9	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
10	SHREK
11	RADYO
12	IRA

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SHREK
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	IRA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285452

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	IRA
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
5	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	SHREK
9	ANIMAL
10	MOULIN ROUGE
11	RADYO
12	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

SM SOUTHMALL
8066886

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	SHREK
4	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
5	IRA
6	RADYO
7	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	ANIMAL
10	BROTHERHOOD

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
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1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SEX MEDUSA

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1	SHREK
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	KAMASUTRA 2001
4	COOL DUDES
5	DUDURUGIN KITA...
6	RADYO
7	PLANET OF THE APES

SM ILOILO
3200422

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	CLOSED
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	CATS & DOGS
6	DUDURUGIN KITA...
7	CLOSED
8	MOULIN ROUGE

SM PAMPANGA
7138015

1	ANIMAL
2	SHREK
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	RADYO
5	VENUS
6	PLANET OF THE APES

SM SUCAT
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1	BROTHERHOOD
2	SHREK
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	MOULIN ROUGE

SM DAVAO

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2	BROTHERHOOD, YOUNG WARLOCK
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

GLORIETTA 4

1	SHREK	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	A PIECE OF EDEN (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PLANET OF THE APES	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	MOULIN ROUGE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	PLANET OF THE APES	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! AUG.24 TO 25 9PM Onstage	

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1	SHREK THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	PLANET OF THE APES	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	MOULIN ROUGE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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1 (DDS)	BROTHERHOOD
2 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4 GOLD (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ANIMAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
8 [illegible]	RADYO
9 [illegible]	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
10 [illegible]	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	VENUS
2	RSERVE
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2 (DTS)	
3	IRA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BROTHERHOOD

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SHREK
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	IRA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	TEENAGE DIARIES

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	IRA
5	SHREK
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	BROTHERHOOD
8	VENUS

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	SHREK

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	DR. DO LITTLE
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	IRA
A	PLANET OF THE APES

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	VENUS
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2	RESERVE
3	IRA
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	SEX MEDUSA
7 (DTS)	SHREK
8 (SDDS)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	IRA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	IRA
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	VENUS
4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SEX MEDUSA
6 (DOLBY)	SHREK
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SHREK
2	VENUS
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	SEX MEDUSA
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
6	IRA
7 (DOLBY)	SHREK
8	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	VENUS
2	IRA
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

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Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	IRA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Lords	IRA
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1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	VENUS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SHREK
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	IRA
5	BROTHERHOOD

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	VENUS

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	IRA
2	VENUS
3	PLANET OF THE APES

Berma
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1	IRA
2	PLANET OF THE APES

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BROTHERHOOD
2	VENUS
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	VENUS
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TOM CATS
2 (DTS)	VENUS
3 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	GET OVER IT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	VENUS
2 (DOLBY)	GET OVER IT
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	TOM CATS

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BROTHERHOOD
2	VENUS
3	IRA
4 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	RIOT
2	VENUS
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	TOM CATS
5	BAGANSYA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	STICKMEN
3	VENUS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	STICKMEN
3	VENUS

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	DRIVEN
2	RED DIARIES
3	VENUS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	STICKMEN
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	RUMBLE FROM THE BRONX

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	VENUS
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	VENUS

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	VENUS
2	REPLICANT
3	DRUNKEN MASTER 2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	VENUS
3	ANIMAL
4	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Jade Cinema
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1 (DOLBY EX)	SHREK
2	COOL DUDES
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
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5	SHREK
6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
7	ANIMAL
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
10	MOULIN ROUGE

ERMITA
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1	SHREK
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
6	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
7	PLANET OF THE APES

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
2	SHREK
3	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	IRA
7	BROTHERHOOD
8	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

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1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	IRA
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
5	SHREK
6	SHREK

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1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	CATS & DOGS
4	MOULIN ROUGE
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	BROTHERHOOD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SEX MEDUSA
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TUHOG/ RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
ODEON	PLANET OF THE APES
ODEON-2	VENUS
ROBEN	IRA
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	IRA
QUEZON-1	SEX MEDUSA
REMAR	SEX MEDUSA
REMAR-2	PLANET OF THE APES
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OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SHREK
CINEMA-2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IRA
CINEMA-2	VENUS
CINEMA-3	ANIMAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	RADYO
CINEMA-7	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-8	COOL DUDES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SHREK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHREK
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-12	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-2	SHREK
CINEMA-3	SHREK
CINEMA-4	CRAZY/ BEATIFUL
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	PLANET OF THE APES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	WALANG MATIGAS NA PUTO...
CINEMA-2	BLOODY WISH
CINEMA-4	HAPDI SA TAG-INIT

Promo nights at Suburbia

AS a treat to its loyal guests, Suburbia Malate extends its party nights promo for all Saturdays of August, which entitles everybody to a 50-percent discount on the minimum consumable charge.

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to enjoy good food, drinks and lots of fun and entertainment with good-looking boy band 7th Soul and pop band Elements performing back-to-back onstage.

Meanwhile, Suburbia's weekday line up teems with top bands starting with the country's premier group Side A performing on Mondays and back-to-back with Ntwine on Wednesdays.

Tuesdays, Pido With Take One dishes out smooth harmonies, plus their original compositions from their current CD under MCA Universal.

A free entrance promo awaits ladies on Thursdays, as Suburbia Malate celebrates ladies night with the infectious R&B sound of Toy Symphony.

Fridays are undoubtedly special as talented boy-band Freeverse performs with energetic group Playback.

Suburbia Malate is at 1718 M. Adriatico st. Malate Manila. For inquiries, call 450-1685 or 86.

Weekend bar tour

THE MILD Seven models cover all the fun places from north to south, offering not only a chance to try the smooth taste of Mild Seven in original or lights, but also exciting games and prizes.

This weekend, the Mild Seven models will check out the Makati and Quezon City areas.

Tonight, Aug. 24, the team is ready to party with the crowd in some of Makati's hottest bars like Buma, Cable Car (Glorietta and Pasay Road), Café Overdrive, Che Cigar, Cork, Grilla, Hard Rock Café, Hutu's Hut, Padi's Point (Jupiter, Pasay Road, Mile Long), Reasons, Stix Bar, Strumm's, Jazz Rhythms, Windows Café (Rockwell) and Where Else.

On Saturday, the team will head to Quezon City as they intensify the fun at Big Shots, Brannigans, Bugsy, Cactus, Cafea, Congo Grille, East Saint Louie, Famous Mike's, Giligans, Grilla, Humidor, Katips, Quattro, Southern Bulls, Ten Years After, Whistlestop (Libis, Tomas Morato), Bargo, Blue Onion, Klub Kulture, Padi's Point (Libis, Mindave), E-Place (Tomas Morato) and Virgin Café.

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After Pops and Piolo, why not Sharon and Cogie?

(From page A27)

It still remains to be seen whether Martin or his recording company, MCA Universal, would change the title by the time the new album is released.

"We want to stick to the one-word title that my previous CDs had," Martin reasons out.

"Souvenirs" appears to be a "best-of" album since it contains songs from Martin's multiplatinum releases in the past. Every track also brings memories of different episodes of Martin's rise to stardom.

From the "Journeys" album is "You." From "Roads"—"Forever" (a duet with **Regine Velasquez**), "You're My Everything" and "Never Said Goodbye."

From "Forever" are "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and "The Promise."

From "Return to Forever" come Martin's duet with his dad, **Bert Nievera**, "The Greatest Love Affair," his duet with twin sister **Vicky**, "The Last Time I Felt Like This" and his version of "Kahit Isang Saglit."

There are also special cuts like "You Are My Song" (originally released as a CD single); Martin's duet with US pop star **Mikaila**, "It's All Up to You;" "Paguwi," which copped the grand prize in this year's Metropop Music Festival; and "The Greatest Love of All," one of Martin's personal favorites which he recorded as the theme of the recent **Maricel Soriano** starrer, "Mila."

Talented daughter

BEFORE celebrity daughters **Karylle (Zsa Zsa Padilla)** and **KC Concepcion** (Sharon Cuneta) even tried to make it in show biz, there was **Isabella**, the spunky and talented daughter of pop diva **Kuh Ledesma**.

Although Isabella is not really full-time into singing, she manages to squeeze in a few live performances with her famous mom.

Tonight and tomorrow night, Isabella will be shown on video while Mommy Kuh sings "If I Could" live, during the repeat of "Kuh Sings Streisand," this time at the Music Museum.

The first one was a successful dinner-concert venture held at the Manila Hotel. There was public clamor for a repeat that's why Kuh obliged for two more shows in a popular venue.

But the pop diva assures this new show will be different from the Manila Hotel concert. There will be new songs in the repertoire. And since Music Museum is a smaller and more intimate venue, it is the perfect place to sing Streisand hits.

Kuh will be joined onstage by balladeer **Chad Borja**, with whom she will sing such unforgettable duets as "You Don't Bring Me Flowers," "Some Good Things Never Last," "Till I Loved You," "I Finally Found Someone" and "Guilty."

Another guest is **Radha**, formerly with Kulay Band.

Kuh will be backed up by an 18-piece string ensemble and a session band.

Weight-loss regimen

SHARON has been successful enough in losing weight after she gave birth to **Frankie** last December.

She expects to lose some more unwanted pounds before she starts her new movie with **Robin Padilla**.

Yes, the megastar will be back before the cameras and she will start shooting next month.

It has been more than a year since Sharon was last seen on the big screen. Her last movie was "Minsan Minahal Kita," with **Richard Gomez**. It was shown in February last year, as the Valentine presentation of Star Cinema.

Sharon's tandem with Richard is being hailed as the new **Vilma Santos-Christopher de Leon** loveteam in local cinema. Even if they did not end up as real-life partners, Sharon and Goma continue to hit it off well in every project they make, which turn out to be box office hits.

After her movie with Robin, Sharon has another project, reportedly with **Aga Muhlach**.

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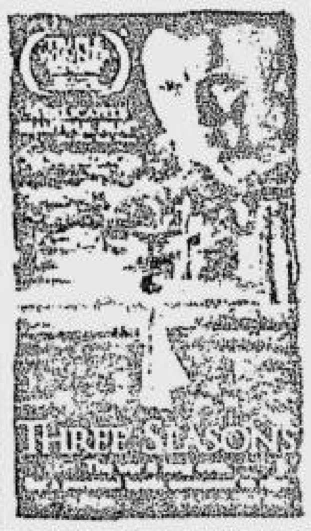
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.
Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War.A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story. Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.
Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub titles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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

The price entertainers pay

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

IN the August issue of "W" magazine (distributed locally by Emerald Headway), **Dennis Quaid** gave a very truthful and insightful interview regarding the breakup of his marriage to **Meg Ryan.**

Dennis is quoted as saying: "when Meg and I split up, I had the wherewithal not to go out and get loaded again. (He famously battled cocaine dependence with the help of his then fiancée Meg Ryan.) I'm not going to reach for another long-term relationship or whatever it is that keeps you from facing what's really going on. Because it just delays the inevitable. It's an intensely painful experience. Next to losing a child, the breakup of a marriage is the hardest thing to go through."

On the breakup of the **Tom Cruise-Nicole Kidman** marriage, Dennis said, "I guess they're more interested in Tom and Nicole's breakup now. Took the heat off me. I feel sorry for Tom Cruise. But you get that kind of money because of loss of privacy. At least they haven't written about me with any guys! So I have to be grateful for something!"

From the heart

In the same article he speaks from the heart about finding your own identity apart from that which you created within the relationship. Not once did he cast any blame on Meg having had an on-set affair with **Russell Crowe,** although he did acknowledge going through "shock, depression, anger."

It's a must-read article to get a man's perspective on letting go. As women, we tend to empathize much more with what other women go through, yet the sense of loss is just as acute for men.

Apart from **Martin Nievera** this is the first time I've read a man acknowledge his loss so completely and honestly.

In a way, I must agree that the relatively high pay we entertainers get is because of the loss of privacy. Privacy is a fundamental right of every person, but you surrender a high percentage of that right when you become a celebrity.

Think of it this way: In the corporate world, if you are making a major presentation for a new real estate development that you'd want your investor to shell out a lot of capital for, you just have to sell the merits of your residential and commercial complex vis-a-vis the needs of the sector you'd like to appeal to.

In no way will you be asked in the course of the presentation questions regarding who you're dating at present, who you've slept with in the past, what you're beauty routine is, if you drink tequila nightly, if you've tried Ecstacy, or if there's a chance for you to still reconcile with your ex.

Soul-baring

In the case of entertainers, when they have to promote a major concert, a new television show, or a movie that's about to be shown, they lay themselves bare in presscons and television interview sessions on shows like "The Buzz" and "Kris and Tell" where **Boy Abunda** and I as hosts encourage guests to give on-cam, unedited, soul-baring tearful confessions.

On a day-to-day basis we are open to so much scrutiny. You have to accept the fact that everybody feels they can tell you that you've gained weight, you don't look the same without makeup, or that you should give your ex a chance since he's really a good guy after all.

In a normal office, most bosses are considerate enough to take you aside whenever you are reprimanded. In the case of entertainers, you have to accept the fact that certain columnists and critics will freely lambast your work and your person from head to foot, for the whole world's consumption.

On the flipside of course are the compliments that you're pretty, your skin is so smooth, your haircut and color are so becoming. There are those who approach you just to say that they not only enjoy your work, whether on TV or via your column, but they also gain much from you.

Good or bad, the public's opinion is something you graciously accept and it does have a significant bearing on all your decision-making.

Acceptable

Regarding the 20 percent withholding tax controversy in the entertainment industry, those of us in the top income bracket—who are liable for the top tax bracket of 32 percent of gross income prior to expenses—are in a way really just shelling out what is due the government earlier than the April 15 and July 15 deadlines.

This scheme is perfectly acceptable for those in the top income bracket, but for supporting actors, stuntmen, production assistants, makeup artists, lighting and sound crews, researchers and the like, this is an undue burden.

Let me repeat what Boy and I stated on "The Buzz." The implementation of this new withholding tax scheme should be socialized—meaning, dependent on the income bracket of those who'd be affected—and it should be implemented after due consultation with the sector involved.

I know that there are ways and means to circumvent paying the appropriate taxes, but my accountant, Ms **Yambao** of Alba, Romeo and Co., can attest to the fact that we declared every centavo I earned, and presented all and only the legitimate deductible expenses I incurred. She can also be a witness to my complaints because of the amount I had to shell out as additional money owed to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

In my case, a 20 percent withholding tax—or, to be more precise, an additional 10 percent withheld from my income—would be forced savings, and would ease the stress I go through during income tax season.

Honoring the nation

My mom said it best when she told me that if I weren't a Filipino, then I probably wouldn't have the career and the fame I have now. The Philippines and the Pinoy audience have made all the good in my career possible, so I shouldn't complain when I give back to my country.

For us "stars," maybe we should look at it that way. Paying the right amount of taxes is our way of honoring our nation and saying thanks for all that our Pinoy audience have bestowed upon us.

All we ask in return is that our government, because of the support we're giving, be as honest, transparent and efficient as we good citizens deserve.

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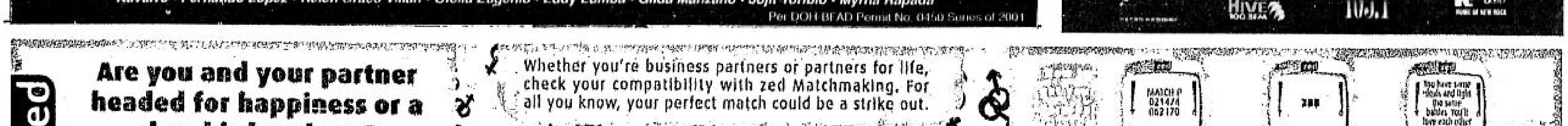

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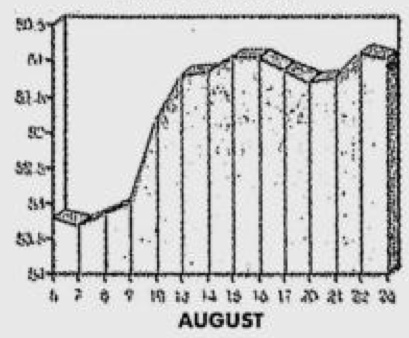

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

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As of 5 p.m.,
August 23, 2001

¥ 120.36 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
August 23, 2001

GOLD:$274.50/275.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
August 23, 2001

STOCK MARKET

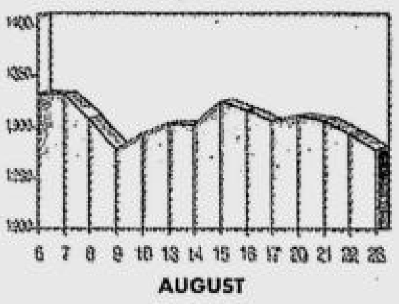
Shares end lower

SHARES finished lower yesterday, pressured by heavy foreign selling in blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 16.99 points, or 1.3 percent, at 1,278.14 adding to a 0.9-percent loss Wednesday. The index has already given up 2.5 percent since Tuesday. Volume turnover was lower at P347 million from the

SHARES/ B2

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

AS THE PESO continued to stabilize, the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday decided to maintain its overnight rates as well as the reserve requirement on bank deposits and deposit substitutes.

The central bank's overnight borrowing and lending rates were kept at 9 percent and 11.25 percent while the commercial banks' reserve requirement stays at 20 percent.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that while local monetary authorities took into account the US Federal Reserve's move to cut interest rates by half-a-percentage point, it also considered the negative impact that a cut in overnight borrowings would have on local inflation.

Tetangco said the Bangko Sentral believed the peso would sustain its recovery as policy measures take effect. Bank analysts said the peso's continued appreciation may calm down the financial market's fears that the central bank will further raise its reserve requirement or even hike overnight rates.

The peso yesterday closed at 51 from 50.91 to a dollar last Wednesday.

"We observed that while inflation has stabilized, it is closer to the higher end of the target. We also saw as an additional risk to inflation the possible increase in oil prices as winter approaches," Tetangco said.

A cut in overnight rates can lead to higher inflation as cost of credit goes down and consumer spending rises. The inflation rate went up to 6.8 percent in July from 6.7 percent a month ago.

The Monetary Board also postponed any action on the reserve requirement as it decided to wait for the second-quarter growth in gross domestic product to determine whether the economy had accelerated enough to catch up with the level of money circulating in the system.

Tetangco said the Bangko Sentral had reduced to 13 percent the level of growth in domestic liquidity from 15 percent following the slowdown in economic performance.

"We will wait for the second-quarter GDP and until the full impact of the last increase (in the reserve requirement) had worked its way into the system before making any further decision on the reserve requirement," the central bank official said.

The Bangko Sentral had jacked up the reserve requirement by a total of four percentage points to 20 percent in late July and early August to mop up about P55 billion in excess funds from the system that otherwise would have been used to speculate against the peso and, in turn, push inflation higher.

Tetangco said that monetary authorities were still open to further increases in the banks' reserve requirement.

"We have to assess the appropriate level of liquidity once we have the full data on growth and inflation," the Bangko Sentral deputy governor said.

Ecozone investments down 50% in 7 months

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INVESTMENTS in state- and private-owned industrial estates plunged by more than 50 percent in the first seven months this year as the economic slowdown in the world's major economies forced investors to defer their new and expansion plans.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported that investments shrank 57 percent to P23.57 billion from January to Aug. 9 this year from P55.43 billion during the same period last year.

The Peza reported that new investments fell 59 percent to P7.38 billion in the first seven months this year from P18.02 billion during the same period last year. Investments by existing enterprises likewise tumbled 61 percent to P12.33 billion in the first seven months this year from P31.63 billion last year.

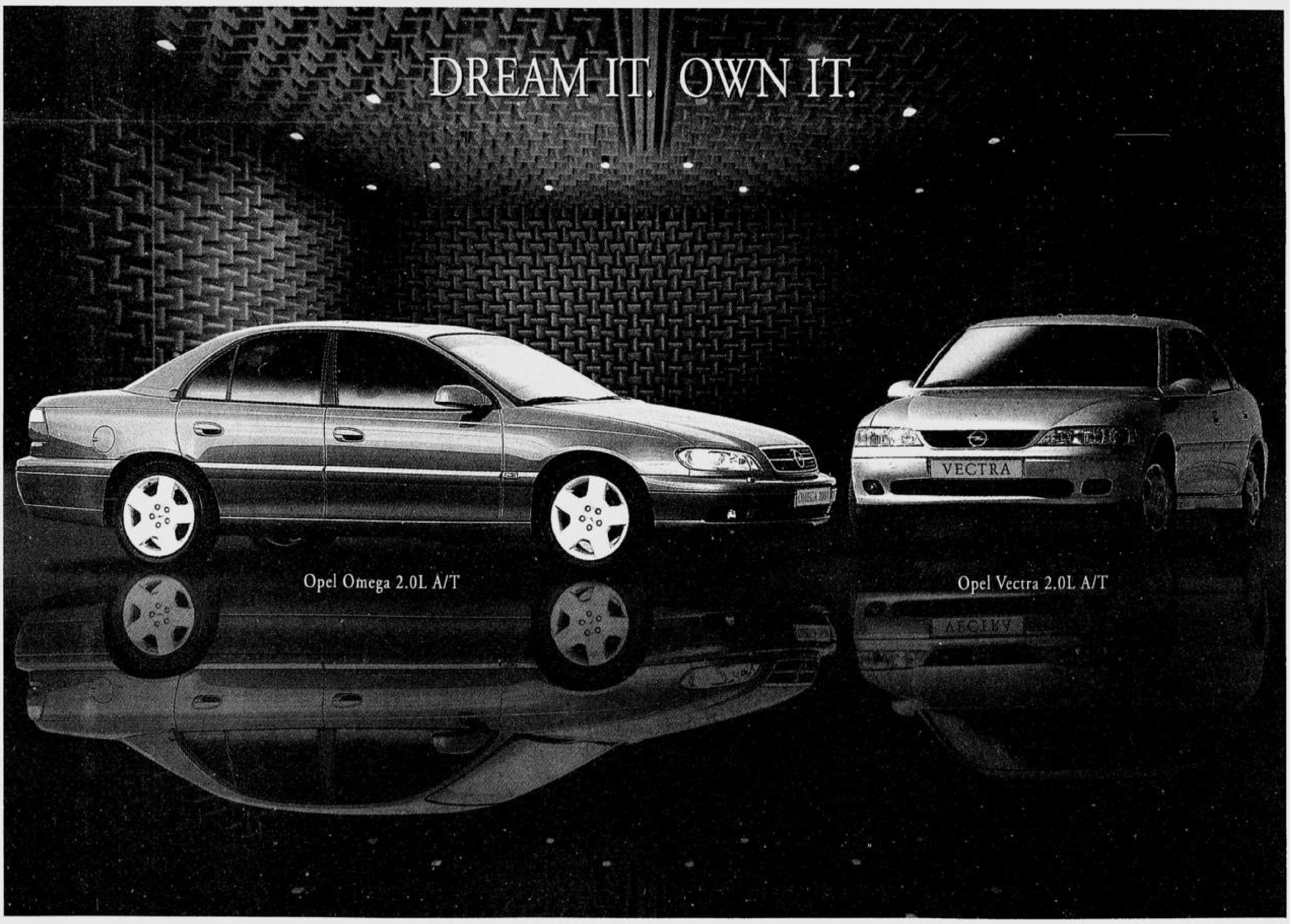
The shrinking amount of investments in ecozones has been blamed on the gloomy outlook on the world's major economies, particularly the waning demand for electronic and information technology products. Most of the companies operating in ecozones manufacture electronic and IT products.

At this pace, it is doubtful whether Peza would hit its 20-percent growth in investments to P88.87 billion this year.

Peza officials had been optimistic that the euphoria over the change in administration in January would translate to more investments. Also, Peza officials expected the Philippines to benefit from the trend in Japanese companies that are relocating some of their manufacturing operations overseas to cut costs.

However, due to peace and order problems and labor restiveness, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce said that most Japanese investors have chosen to put their money in Vietnam, China and Thailand in lieu of the Philippines and Indonesia.

Peza's lean investments haul contrasted sharply with the Board of Investments' glowing investments report, which showed a 400-percent increase in registered projects to P86.88 billion in the first seven months this year from P17.44 billion during the same period last year, the bulk of which were poured into telecommunication projects.



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Foreign group to acquire 6% equity stake in Music

By Doris C. Dumlao

A NEW foreign group is acquiring a 6-percent stake in Music Corp., which is currently raising funds to strengthen its core semiconductor business.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Music said Dutch company Merel Investments N.V. was keen on buying 25 million shares in the company.

Merel was supposed to subscribe to the 25 million shares to be issued by Music out of its authorized but unissued capital stock at P1.82 per share.

However, the company said the investor was not willing to wait for the minimum two-month period, which is normally required to list new issued shares on the local stock exchange.

As such, existing Music shareholders, including company president Michael Burton, have decided to sell from their existing stakes the 25 million shares to Merel.

The transaction will, in effect, enable Music to advance the net cash proceeds and later on use these funds to pay for the same number of new shares to be issued by the company once the PSE has approved the new listing.

Music has 421.69 million outstanding shares of which 33.73 percent was still available for foreign ownership.

The company is currently raising $6 million to beef up the funds of its flagship unit Music Semiconductors Inc., which is involved in the design and marketing of specialty devices for the networking industry. The unit is in need of fresh funds to develop its newest microchip products.

Aside from the issuance of 25 million shares to a new group, the fresh capital build-up of Music involves the sale of an 18-percent stake in Music Semiconductors.

Music is likewise selling $1.7 million worth of shares in another unit Music Telecom Inc. with a right to repurchase the shares by November this year.

With the slowdown in the global demand for electronics amid the weakening US economy, Music Semiconductors is finding it difficult to raise fresh capital on its own.

Cosmos: Petition a 'nuisance suit'

FOOD and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. yesterday tagged as a "nuisance suit" the petition for a temporary restraining order filed by Iloilo congressman Augusto Syjuco on the P15-billion sale of Cosmos Bottling Corp. to San Miguel Corp.

In a statement yesterday, RFM legal counsel Cristina Reyes said: "This is nothing more than a nuisance suit. Mr. Syjuco has been fully paid five years ago and we have all the documents, and even the acknowledgment of his own counsel at that time."

Syjuco filed with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on Tuesday a petition asking the court to rescind a memorandum of agreement on the sale of Jaz Cola Philippines to Cosmos dated Nov. 8, 1996. Syjuco, who sat as chair of Jaz Cola, claimed that Cosmos had unjustly and deliberately failed to pay a balance of P145.58 million to Jaz shareholders.

Jaz Cola, which operates in the Visayas region, was included among the Cosmos brands and businesses to be sold to the SMC group.

The congressman also claimed that Cosmos, through Cosmos president Jose Ma. Concepcion III and father Jose Concepcion Jr., had participated in a grand scheme to evade paying taxes that should have been paid on behalf of the sellers in line with the purchase agreement.

But Reyes stressed that there were existing records that Cosmos had given full payment to Syjuco and had likewise settled other obligations left behind, including bills for raw materials, resins, bottles, spare parts, advertising materials, truck leases and all taxes due on the transaction.

"In fact, an audit of the transaction in 1997 shows that there was even an overpayment to Mr. Syjuco, as certified by the SGV auditor and Emmanuel Rios,

COSMOS/ B3

WILLIAM R. Berkley, chair and CEO of W.R. Berkley Corp. (center) answers questions from the media during a press conference at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. W.R. Berkley Corp. is a property-casualty insurance holding company with assets of over $5 billion and annual revenues of over $1.75 billion. Others in photo are Felipe R. Diego, president, Berkley International Philippine Family First Inc., and William R. Berkley Jr., president, Berkley International.

Shares end lower

(From page B1)

previous day's P408.84 million. Decliners outclassed gainers 39 to 25 with 36 stocks unchanged.

PLDT was among the most active stocks, falling P20, or 3.6 percent, at P530 as foreign selling persisted, traders said.

"Some investors were heavily selling PLDT," said Equitable PCI Bank fund manager Edison Yap. "Price/earnings-wise, the stock is still very expensive, and there is also concern about its debt."

Some traders have estimated PLDT's P/E ratio as high as 65 times 2001 earnings. Some traders believe the company's stock doesn't deserve to be trading at such a high level given its numerous problems, particularly its debt burden.

Traders said there is also skepticism over the country's economic prospects in view of the slow pace of economic recovery in the US. *AP*

SEC, ADB sign agreement on $75-M loan

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT, through the Securities and Exchange Commission, has signed a memorandum of understanding to avail itself of a $75-million loan from the Asian Development Bank to improve corporate governance in the non-bank financial sector.

The non-bank financial governance program tied to the loan is aimed at strengthening the governance and enforcement capacity of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the SEC, introducing more transparency in the financial markets and encouraging equal enforcement of rules and regulations.

In a talk with reporters yesterday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the ADB has agreed to convert an earlier approved two-tranche, $100-million loan into a single tranche, $75-million loan given that the government has satisfactorily completed the first phase of 36 policy actions called for under the NFG program.

Bautista noted that the Securities Regulation Code was passed and its implementing rules and regulations have been issued, the SEC has reorganized itself and governance of the Philippine Stock Exchange has improved.

The SEC chief said the government hoped to negotiate with the ADB another $75-million loan, also at low interest rate or concessional terms, for the second phase of policy reforms under the program.

In the MOU signed by the SEC yesterday, the ADB said the government still needed to strengthen the SEC's enforcement processes and supervisory practices over the nonbank financial sector and rationalize SEC and BSP regulation over the industry.

The multilateral financial institution also said that government has to upgrade market regulation and business practices in line with the international standards and to develop clearance, settlement and depository infrastructure for securities trading.

Moreover, the government should enhance the professionalism of the Philippine Stock Exchange and support development of a corporate debt market through amendments to the country's tax system. Meanwhile, the MOU also provides that the ADB will grant the SEC technical assistance amounting to $1 million to help develop self-regulation in the securities market and strengthen the SEC's role in setting and enforcing accounting and auditing standards in line with international practices.

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DISCLOSURES

RFM Corp. disclosed that the legal complaint filed against **Cosmos Bottling Corp.** by Congressman Augusto Syjuco has no basis and his claim is not a valid claim.

* * *

LMG Chemicals Corp. reported that the company's sulfuric acid plant was shut down on Aug. 17 for repairs and was restarted in the afternoon of Aug. 19, but a fluke occurred on its sulfur feed at around 7:15 p.m. The plant was immediately shut down.

* * *

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. at the Function Room of Subic Bay Yacht Club, Olongapo City. Record date is set on Aug. 31.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, August 23, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63	62.5	63	27,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	32	32	32	16,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	202	202	196	197	113,950
Philippine National Bank	51	51.5	50.5	51.5	575,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	1,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	16,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	244	244	244	244	210
Manulife Financial Corp.	1470	1470	1470	1470	370
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1200	1205	1200	1205	3,990
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	11,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	635	635	635	635	3,010
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	1,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	550	550	530	530	57,610
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.029	0.034	0.029	0.034	2,788,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	8,400
Manila Electric Co. B	43	43	42.5	42.5	772,200
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	3,000,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	150,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	418,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.08	0.08	190,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	3,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	110,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	2,596,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	1,300,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	124,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	9,600
RFM Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.28	2.3	1,016,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	25,900
San Miguel Corp. B	56	56	55	55.5	107,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	157,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	700,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	230,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	11	11	200
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	750,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	61,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	220,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10.5	10	10.5	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	2,773,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	230,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	29.5	30.5	29.5	30	369,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	250,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	3,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.021	13,900,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	8,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	480,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	400,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	340,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	70,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.36	0.5	0.36	0.45	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	200,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	2,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	60,000
Music Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.5	0.51	240,000
Pryce Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	170,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	70,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	700,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	200,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	14,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35	35	34.5	35	87,400
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	11,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.013	561,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.65	4.75	4.65	4.75	4,318,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	300,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.35	3,070,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2	2.02	1.94	1.94	2,333,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	2	2	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	5,863,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.005	0.0046	0.005	35,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	3,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.041	0.046	0.041	0.046	96,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	100,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	37,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	130,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	26,300,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	330,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	10,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	80,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	120,000

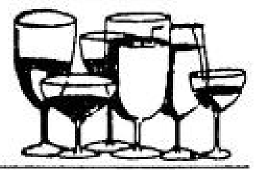
CURRENCIES

Aug. 23, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.093255	1.000000	50.9460
Japan	Yen	0.009079	0.008305	0.4231
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583470	1.448400	73.7902
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140168	0.128212	6.5319
Switzerland	Franc	0.657044	0.600998	30.6184
Canada	Dollar	0.709030	0.648550	33.0410
Singapore	Dollar	0.623648	0.570451	29.0622
Australia	Dollar	0.585222	0.535303	27.2715
Bahrain	Dinar	2.900034	2.652661	135.1425
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.291503	0.266638	13.5841
Brunei	Dollar	0.620219	0.567314	28.9024
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000127	0.000116	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024524	0.022432	1.1428
UAE	Dirham	0.297727	0.272331	13.8742
Korea	Won	0.000859	0.000786	0.0400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.914700	46.6003
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.467679	23.8264
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139445	7.1042
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.415073	21.1463
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066474	3.3866
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022675	1.1552
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000472	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.153841	7.8376
Portugal	Escudo	0.004989	0.004563	0.2325
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005497	0.2801
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022675	1.1552
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.161429	59.1702

Yuchengco wants PLDT back

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

TAIPAN Alfonso Yuchengco Jr. may have removed himself from Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. but it now appears that the ex-PLDT chair wants to regain control of the public utility via the judiciary.

Yuchengco himself has formally communicated his intention to no less than Metro Pacific chair and concurrently PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan, this we have confirmed.

Ironically, despite having joined the Cojuangcos in the 1998 sale that relinquished control of PLDT to the Metro Pacific Group, the taipan has not dropped his claim with the Sandiganbayan over the same Cojuangco shareholdings.

In that November 1998 sale, the family of now PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. sold its 44-percent stake in Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp., a holding company that controlled more than 20 percent of PLDT.

Yuchengco, in tandem with the Cojuangcos, likewise sold his 7.75-percent shareholdings in PTIC also to the Metro Pacific Group.

Through PTIC, the Cojuangcos effectively controlled management and the lucrative purchasing business of PLDT since the Marcos years until the Metro Pacific buyout. Yuchengco, on the other hand, cornered the multibillion-peso insurance business of PLDT, also until the Metro Pacific takeover.

Notwithstanding the sale, the ownership of the Cojuangco bloc in PTIC is still being contested in the Sandiganbayan by the government, the Marcoses, and Yuchengco, through his Y Realty Corp.

According to Yuchengco lawyer Ramon Quisumbing, Y Realty late last month obtained a Sandiganbayan ruling that automatically bounds Metro Pacific, as buyer and transferee *pendente lite* (literally, pending the lawsuit) of the Cojuangco shares in PTIC, to the outcome of the ownership case.

Notwithstanding that neither Metro Pacific nor Pangilinan are impleaded in

COCKTALES/ B4

Cosmos: Petition a 'nuisance suit'

(From page B2)

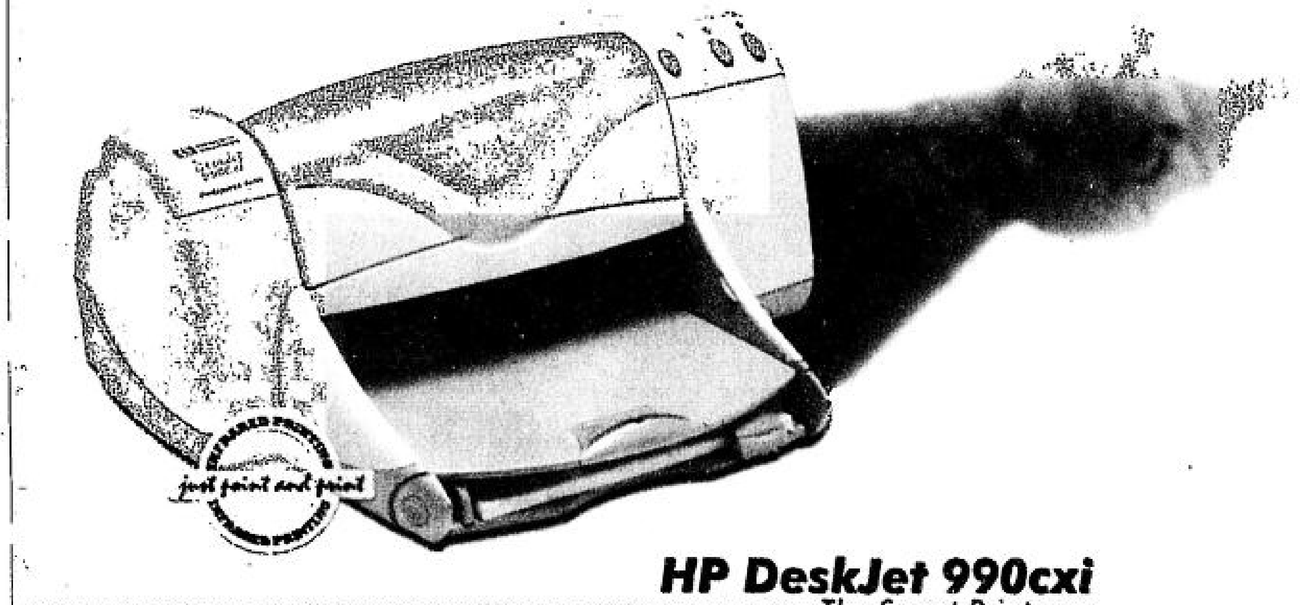
the president of Mr. Syjuco's company at that time," Reyes said.

In this regard, Reyes said Syjuco did not have any valid claim against Cosmos.

"If you had a valid claim against somebody, why wait for five years to make that claim? It makes you wonder what the real motive is behind the filing of the TRO and injunction, at this time when everyone knows there is a transaction under consideration between CBC and SMC," Reyes said.

SMC has agreed to buy lock, stock and barrel of Cosmos for P15 billion. RFM owns 82.3 percent of Cosmos.

Survival of the quickest



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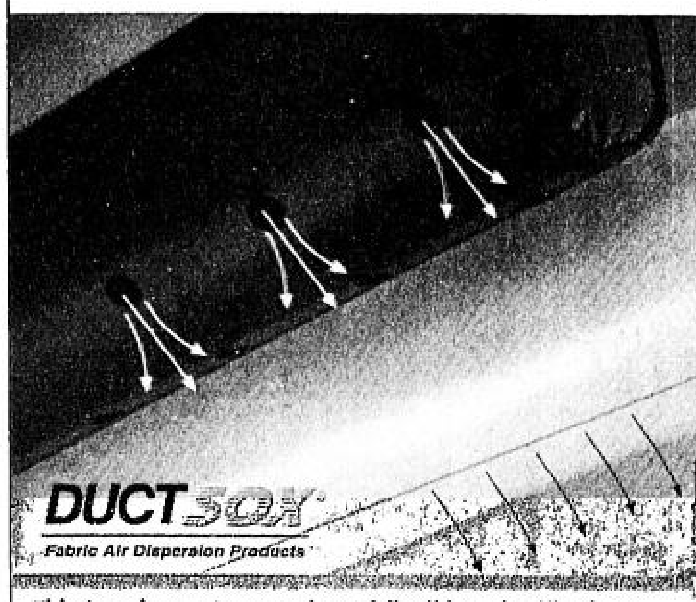

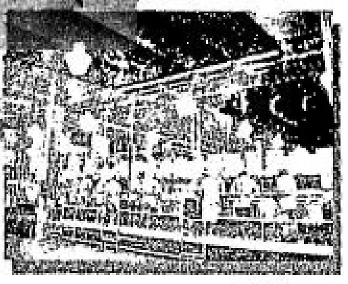
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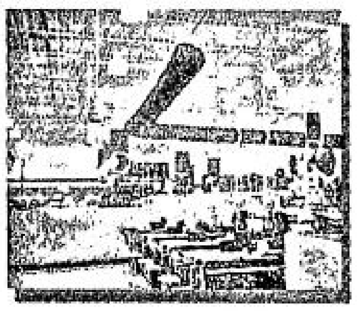
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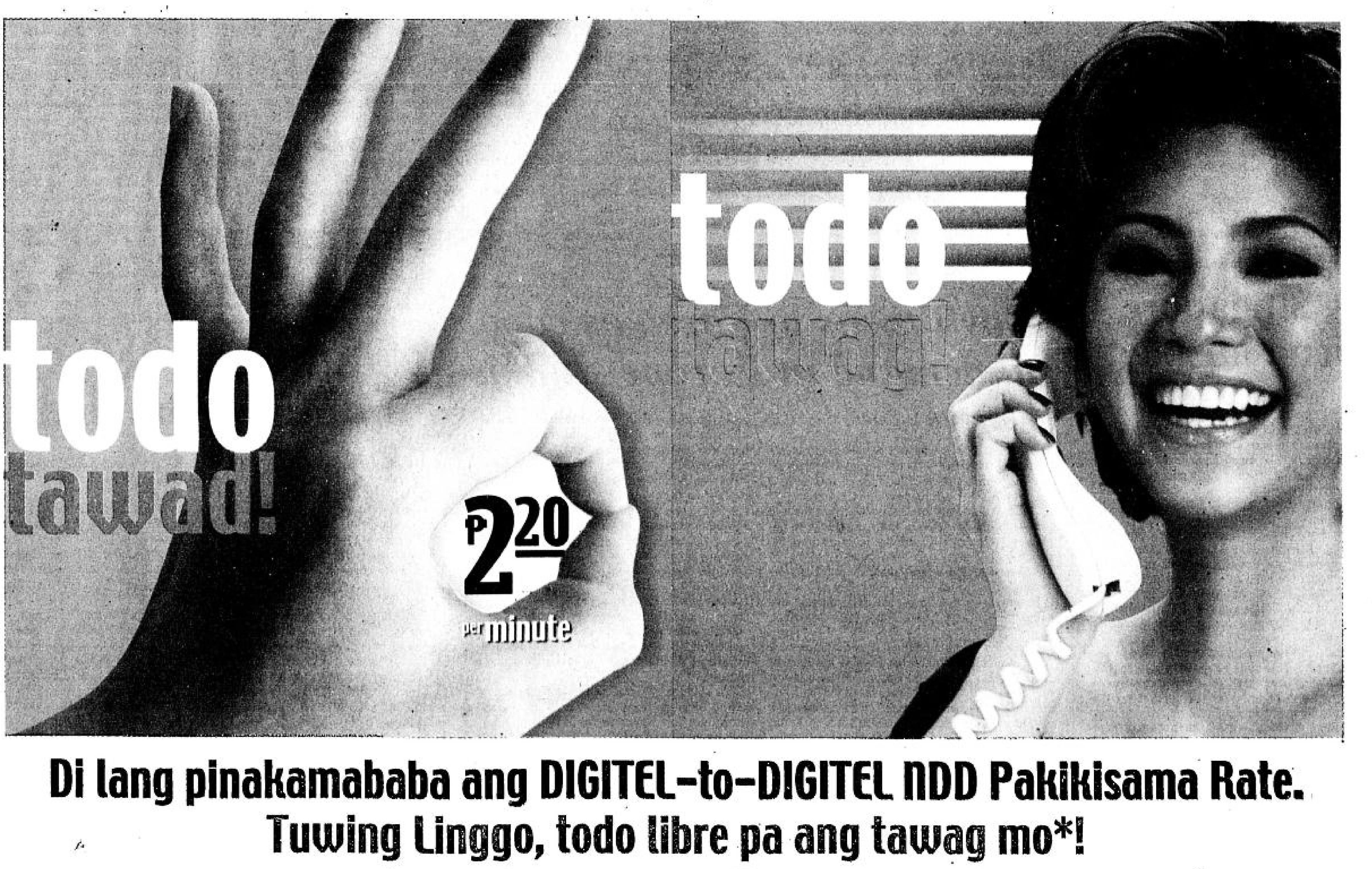

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Gov't raising taxes on OBUs

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday said it would increase the taxes slapped on the transactions of offshore banking units from only 10 percent to as much as 30 percent to raise P6 billion in additional revenue for the government.

There are 13 offshore banking units or OBUs operating in the country that are allowed to accept dollar deposits and transact with non-residents and other OBUs.

The OBUs used to enjoy tax exemption on these transactions until they were compelled by the Comprehensive Tax Reform Law to pay a 10-percent tax on earnings.

Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison said the Bureau of Internal Revenue had ruled that it would start subjecting OBU transactions to a 5-percent gross receipts tax and a 10-percent branch profit remittance tax.

The move will effectively raise the tax burden of the offshore banking units to 30 percent from the current 10 percent.

Gison said the OBUs had asked the finance department to reconsider the BIR ruling. He said the offshore banks also lobbied to restore their tax exemption privileges.

"The imposition of the 10-percent tax was included in the CTRP, so the only way to amend it is through Congress," said Gison.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the only tax measures that the DoF has been pursuing were the increase in excise taxes on beer and tobacco and the shift to a gross modified system from the income tax system.

From a fiscal standpoint, a DoF official explained that the incentives given to the OBUs and the OBU depositors were unnecessary, particularly at this time when the government was in dire need for additional revenue.

Interest earnings of FCDUs are currently slapped a 7.5-percent tax, compared with a 20-percent tax on interest earnings of peso deposits.

The DOF, under then Finance Secretary and now Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, had pushed for the doubling of the tax imposed on foreign currency depository unit (FCDU) deposits to raise P4 billion in additional revenues. The plan, however, was opposed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Bankers' Association of the Philippines.

Camacho said he would review the finance department's policy on FCDUs.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, for his part, said he preferred that the government concentrate on removing the tax arbitrage that arise from a lower withholding tax of 10 percent on offshore banking units and some depository banks instead of raising the taxes on FCDU deposits.

The central bank chief pointed out that the $12 billion in FCDU deposits serve as secondary reserves for the country.

What's wrong with the SSS?

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

ALMOST everything. As SSS members who helped finance the System, it is our right to express our exasperation, with all due respect. It has betrayed the trust of its members. It is neither people-oriented nor customer-focused. It has not shown any proof of competence to deliver results. It has too many vice presidents who are paid with fantastic salaries, while its members suffer for years of neglect and utter lack of concern. It has a distorted hierarchy of values and a twisted sense of priorities. Its administrators are hired and fired by mob rule. It cannot stand a mere band aid solution. It needs a total overhaul if not abolition.

Hiring, firing by the mob

The ouster of Vitaliano Nañagas in response to the union's cry for blood does not speak well of the institution's political will. The President can appease the SSS union by ousting a crusading administrator and appointing a world-class financial wizard like Cora de la Paz. But such an approach may just be another knee-jerk reaction to the internal agitation that betrays the deeper maladies and the organizational cancer illustrating the endemic malaise that ails the entire government bureaucracy.

The external agitation foretells a more passionate struggle to fight the SSS' irresponsiveness and irresponsibility. No less than Justice Mabutas is leading a members' movement to rid this giant bureaucracy of the viruses that incapacitate the SSS.

Betrayal of members' trust

The millions of workers, wage-earners and self-employed, as well as the thousands of employers and retirees, feel betrayed to know that the money they were required to contribute to the state insurance fund has been diverted to extraneous ventures that have nothing to do with their welfare and interest. In the name of transparency, all such transactions should be published.

While members cannot get loans for hundreds of reasons, including unposted remittances, some senators and congressmen, cronies, relatives and mistresses of politicians were allegedly favored with soft loans supposedly to salvage their financial ventures from total collapse. I challenge the SSS top guns and their PR minions to publish all big-time borrowers of SSS in the last 10 years, or to deny the claim under oath.

Neither people oriented nor customer focused

How long would it take a widow to receive the burial assistance for the death of a husband who contributed a large sum of money to this giant bureaucracy called SSS? Ask the orphans how long they were made to wait to receive what were due them?

Ask the poor laborers who tried to obtain loans for calamity. How many times were they told to come back? How many documents were they asked to produce? Why were poor members given a run-around while big-time and influential borrowers who might not even be members were treated with preference and a sense of urgency?

Not results driven

How can SSS become results oriented if the posting of basic records take too long to do? And members are denied benefits because remittances made by employers are not posted with dispatch or not posted accurately, thereby putting the employers in bad light and thus causing labor-management disputes.

How can the SSS indeed become results oriented if its definition of "results" is not service to workers but the amount the System earns from placements of its funds and dividends earned in heavy corporate investments.

Too many top guns

For an organization that is funded by the blood money of the working class, the SSS is too loaded at the top, thereby unduly bloating its overhead costs because of the fantastic salaries and perks given to its executives. Where in the world can you find an organization where an EVP gets P300,000 a month while the administrator receives only P100,000? Never had too few privates been led by too many generals.

Where can you find a PR top man receiving too high a salary that makes bank presidents and Makati-based executives raise their eyebrows in utter exasperation, given the quality of services that the SSS clientele gets. Is public relation, and not service, the top priority at the SSS?

Calling the Senate

The SSS Commission, composed of Cabinet members and representatives from both labor and employers, should answer to the SSS members and to the people. Why on earth did they, as members of the governing board, approve a compensation system in which the EVP receives three times more than the salary of the top man?

Why haven't they checked on the excesses of Christmas celebrations where contributions of millions of workers and employees were being spent, when pittance claims for benefits were disapproved and delayed for no reason at all? We call on the Senate to initiate a total investigation in aid of legislation, and expose and punish the culprits. Reform or abolish the SSS. And privatize its functions.

SSS members, unite!

There is already an organization of SSS members, where the victims of SSS excesses and deficiencies have united. Thus, the days of abuses against us are numbered. We call upon all other victims of SSS inefficiencies, neglect, delays and abuses to come out and join in this crusade led by Justice Mabutas, to free the System from all shenanigans. If the SSS cannot be reformed from within, it may not be able to totally ignore the incessant cry of the members. Without us, members, the SSS is nothing.

The SSS can't even process a simple claim for death benefits with a sense of urgency and compassion for the widowed and the orphaned. They have the gall to squander the people's money. SSS officials and employees are servants of the members. It is high time they know that and really behave as such.

Kung hindi tayo kikibo, sino pa?
Kung hindi ngayon, kailan pa?

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)

NUTRIQUEST FOOD

Giving office canteens a good name

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MOST employees prefer to eat out instead of going to the office canteen, which has been notorious for mediocre food, limited choices and bad service. This explains why companies change their canteen concessionaires practically every year; many are eventually shut down.

SUCCESS STORY

One of the few canteen concessionaires that has managed to stay strong despite changing tastes and increasing choices available in the market is the Nutriquest Food Service, a brainchild of Sollie Agoncillo, who is actually a nurse by profession.

Nutriquest operates the cafeteria of the Metrobank group, Prudential Bank and the Parasol bar and restaurant. Its latest project is the Food Styles Food Court at the fifth floor of the Pacific Star building.

From furniture to food

Nutriquest ventured into the catering business in 1989, when Agoncillo's husband was toying with the idea of closing down his family's furniture shop after more than 20 years.

Agoncillo gained experience in the food business when she was doing the buffet setup for a friend who was an old hand in the catering business. She did this occasionally until 1989, when she decided to go full time.

Agoncillo scouted for prospects and was eventually given the chance to operate the canteen of Aboitiz Air Transport in Pasay. She had only 10 employees at the start who helped her meet the requirements of the Aboitiz group, but they were more than able to manage.

"I believe that operating a canteen is just like operating a household. Being a housewife and a mother, I know what to feed my children, and I want them to have good, nourishing food. I just extended this practice to include the employees of a big organization," Agoncillo said.

She planned her menu with her cooks like she was preparing for her own household. She made sure that there would be something new each day so that the employees would always have something to look forward to.

Growth

Nutriquest was able to service the Aboitiz group well enough that she was referred to other companies looking for competent canteen concessionaires. The offers started coming in and, before she knew it, Agoncillo's staff of 10 had grown to 200 in just 12 years.

AGONCILLO

From the Aboitiz group, she spread her operations to include, at one time or another, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Pilipinas Bank and the Professional group.

Her group is now an accredited caterer at the Coconut Palace and Rockwell.

Most of these concessions she got by invitation based on feedback, referrals, recommendations, and others she bid for.

It is not an easy business, she stresses, as they have to come up with something new and serve different kinds of food about five times a day. There is breakfast, then merienda in the morning and in the afternoon, lunch and then dinner.

For some outlets, she also serves after-dinner treats and drinks. Nutriquest is also called on to provide food for functions, seminars and training.

Maintaining variety

Agoncillo said she rotates her cooks among her different outlets to provide variety.

"Even if it is just adobo, one cook will do it differently from the other. In this way, we maintain variety, which is one of the biggest challenges to operating a canteen," she says.

Nutriquest's latest feat is the Food Styles Food Court at the 5th floor of the Pacific Star building in Makati.

Food Styles houses 12 food concessionaires that serve different kinds of food, from French to Japanese to Filipino favorites.

"We thought of doing a food court for Pacific Star because there is a mix of clients. There are four embassies here, so we have to provide food for them. We also cater to offices in nearby areas," Agoncillo said.

Some of her concessionaires include Mongolian Food, Delifrance, Samurai, Subway, Green Tomato, Nacho Fast, UreOak, Sandy's Cuisine, Mix Bar and Jollibee.

"It is a difficult business. Even after all these years, it is still a challenge but there is fulfillment especially when we see that the employees are happy," she said.

RP, Singapore amend air pact

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT will sign today an amended air rights agreement with Singapore.

This agreement will provide additional seat capacity and allow multicarrier designation for both countries.

In the existing air service agreement, Singapore is allowed to fly 6,545 passengers in and out of Manila per week.

Last year, the city state wanted to have an unlimited number of flights to the country, but the Philippine government was not willing give in because Singapore could not even fill up its existing weekly capacity.

Singapore later dropped its request for unlimited flights and, instead, sought an increase in its weekly seat capacity.

With the signing of the amended air service agreement today, Singapore will be granted the capacity increase that it has been seeking for the past two years.

Transport officials, however, did not disclose the details of the amended agreement.

In another development, Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation transport ministers would meet in Lima, Peru, this October to discuss the expansion of air transport liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region.

Gov't turns to Korea as coco oil demand in Europe slumps

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINE Coconut Administration said yesterday the country would increase by half its coconut oil exports to South Korea this year to make up for its declining exports to Europe.

PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion told the INQUIRER countries in Europe were set to impose tighter restrictions on agricultural imports, including coconut oil.

"We hope to increase our coconut oil exports to South Korea and other Asian countries, which is actually a contingency measure as the industry expects lower exports to Europe," Coronacion said.

He said the United Kingdom and France were set to implement stricter measures on the entry of coconut oil and other agricultural products as part of their efforts to trace the sources of the mad cow disease that had plagued their cattle industries.

The country's coconut oil exports to South Korea hit 74,359 metric tons in the first two months of the year, up from 28,462 metric tons in the same period last year.

Coronacion said with a slump in the prices of agricultural goods in the world market, the government and the local coconut oil industry had been exploring ways to maximize other uses of coconut oil.

About 20 percent of the country's coconut oil production is consumed by local industries while the rest is exported to the United States, Europe and other countries in Asia.

A vegetable supply glut dampened prices of coconut oil in the world market from $800 to $900 per metric ton to as low as $245 in the first quarter of the year.

"We would want to develop the local market for coconut oil to at least lessen the impact of low world market prices on our industry. This was neglected before and we would want to make a difference on this area," Coronacion told the INQUIRER.

He said the government was pursuing the marketing of coco-diesel and coco-bunker fuel as substitutes for expensive fossil fuels now being sold by local oil firms.

Coco-diesel is currently priced at P12 to P12. 50 a liter, while diesel sold at gas stations is at P14 to P14.50 a liter.

Natural gas depot in Bataan planned

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is pushing for the establishment of a liquefied natural gas receiving terminal in Bataan to complement the proposed land-based pipeline for natural gas from Batangas to Manila.

Energy Secretary Vicente S. Perez Jr. said last week that the two projects formed part of the program to develop the distribution segment of the emerging local natural gas industry.

The natural gas from the Malampaya wells northwest off Palawan will be supplied primarily to three power plants in Batangas with a total generating capacity of 2,700 megawatts.

However, the government is also looking for other uses for natural gas including its use as fuel for buses, taxicabs and government vehicles.

Perez said the natural gas depot in Bataan would have a capacity of 1.26 million liters. He, however, could not say how much the project would cost.

The secretary added that the energy department was still looking for prospective investors.

"With an LNG receiving terminal, we will have other means of transporting natural gas aside from pipelines," he said.

He noted that Malampaya represents about 2 percent of the total natural gas reserves in Southeast Asia.

Malampaya is expected to yield 2.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas over the next 20 years.

Indonesia and Malaysia have the biggest reserves in the region with 56 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

"There is so much available gas around us that if we ever run out of local supply, we can import (from our neighbors)," Perez said.

Bank to bid out Davao hotel

DAVAO CITY—Banco Filipino Mortgage and Savings Bank will bid out on Sept. 7 the 9,673 square-meter land here that is occupied by Apo View Hotel.

Banco Filipino resorted to selling this property after the Pamintuan family, which owns the land and the 50-year-old, 12-story hotel, defaulted on their loan payments.

The Pamintuans used the property as collateral when it borrowed P211 million from the bank in 1997 to finance the expansion of Apo View.

The bank said the Pamintuan family failed to service the loan, which as of June 30 this year has ballooned to P335,139,045.

Banco Filipino said it decided to auction off the property and all the improvements to satisfy the hotel's obligation.

However, the beleaguered hotel owners said the planned bidding was illegal because of a ruling issued by RTC Judge Salvador Ibarreta Jr. issued on June 29, 1999 that stopped Banco Filipino from foreclosing the property.

The bidding will be held at the Ninoy Aquino Hall of Justice here.

The bank insisted on bidding out the property saying that the proceeds of the sale would enable the bank to recover from the losses arising from the unpaid loan.

Banco Filipino's plan prompted the Pamintuan family to file a P100-million damage suit against the bank.

Jesus Zozobrado and Roberto Sencio, the Pamintuan family's lawyers, said only one mortgage was executed by their client, which meant that only one foreclosure attempt could be made. The bank's first foreclosure attempt was prevented by a preliminary injunction issued by the court to the bank.

The lawyers said another foreclosure attempt, as what Banco Filipino has been trying to execute, constituted forum-shopping, falsification of public documents, contempt of court and misconduct.

Sencio and Zozobrado have already written the ex-officio Provincial Sheriff and the Clerk of the Regional trial Court seeking the withdrawal of the notice of extra judicial sale. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

the case, "Metro Pacific is (still) at risk of losing its PTIC shares in the event of a decision forfeiting the shares in favor of the government or ordering the conveyance of the shares to Y Realty Corp. or to the Marcos family," Quisumbing said.

But even before the Sandiganbayan could rule on the case, the taipan had already sent a "demand letter" to Pangilinan asking for the return, first, of the Yuchengco shareholdings.

According to the pro-Yuchengco grapevine, the taipan had been merely "coerced" by then President Estrada into selling his PTIC shareholdings to the Metro Pacific Group. Estrada, according to the allegation, was the de facto broker and "commissioner" of the PLDT takeover by the Metro Pacific Group.

With Estrada deposed, Yuchengco has undertaken a series of judicial and extra-judicial moves to return himself to PLDT. Among these moves include blocking the nomination of Metro Pacific director Albert del Rosario as ambassador to Washington, according to the pro-Metro Pacific grapevine.

Yuchengco, who had originally eyed the Washington posting, has in return been assured by President Macapagal-Arroyo the ambassadorship to the United Nations in New York, according to the grapevine.

Although the taipan is no longer a member of the PLDT board, his daughter Helen Dee still is; it is not immediately clear whose shareholdings the daughter represents.

Despite the Metro Pacific takeover, Yuchengcos' Malayan Insurance has been retained by Pangilinan as PLDT's insurance provider, although Malayan's premium rates have now been severely slashed upon the recommendation of Del Rosario, who is in the insurance business himself.

Heard through the grapevine

IT seems that the extended Madrigal family, following matriarch Chito Madrigal-Collantes, are in a helicopter-buying spree nowadays.

Flush with the proceeds of the Madrigal sale of Solidbank, lawyer Francisco "Paqui" Ortigas III, whose mother is a Madrigal, is dead set in acquiring a Bell. This Ortigas will pilot himself after having completed his ongoing flying lessons.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Japan trade surplus plunged 58% in July

TOKYO—Japan's global trade surplus in July plunged 57.9 percent compared with that of the same period last year to 420.7 billion yen ($3.49 billion), the Finance Ministry said Thursday, as the global economic slowdown eroded demand for the country's exports.

The decline in the merchandise trade surplus—the measure of all goods exported minus those imported—was greater than forecast by economists surveyed by the Dow Jones financial news service, which estimated on average that the surplus had declined 47.5 percent.

Japan's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States fell 0.5 percent to 618.83 billion yen ($5.14 billion) in July from a year earlier, the ministry said.

The fall in Japan's long-standing large trade surpluses is bad news for the country's flagging economy. However, even though the surplus has been in a downward trend, economists say it may quickly rise next year if the global economy recovers.

The United States and other top trading partners have long urged Japan to cut its surplus by stimulating domestic demand for imports. But consumer spending here has remained sluggish amid high unemployment aggravated by corporate restructuring and a prolonged economic slump. *AP*

Korea finishes repayment of IMF loans

SEOUL, South Korea—South Korea paid $140 million to the International Monetary Fund on Thursday, completing its repayment of a $19.5-billion loan it borrowed during the 1997-1998 Asian currency crisis.

The full repayment came two years and 10 months ahead of schedule, said Yoon Dae-hee, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

"From now on, we no longer need prior consultations with the IMF in planning and executing our economic policies. We've retaken our economic sovereignty," Yoon said.

Still, many analysts say South Korea's economic troubles are not over, and that corporate restructuring has a long way to go.

South Korea recently adjusted its growth forecast for this year from 5 to 3 percent amid a drop in exports and the US economic slowdown. Its economy grew 10.7 percent in 1999 and 8.8 percent in 2000.

"The crisis is not over," said Rhee Namuh, a senior analyst at Samsung Securities Co.

"The government has succeeded in repaying IMF but failed to strengthen the country's economic structure to ensure sustained growth," said Jun Min-kyu, an analyst at LG Investment & Securities Ltd.

South Korea was hit by a severe liquidity crisis in late 1997, forcing the country to appeal for a record $58-billion, IMF-led bailout package.

South Korea used only $30.2 billion of the package, including $19.5 billion from the IMF.

It has paid back all loans drawn from the World Bank and other international financial organizations.

South Korea's foreign exchange reserves, which dwindled to $8.87 billion in late 1997, now stood at $97.76 billion. *AP*

Taiwan jobless rate rises 4.92%

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan's jobless rate rose to a record high of 4.92 percent in July, the unemployment figure's 10th consecutive monthly rise, officials said Thursday.

The main factor for the increase—up from June's rate of 4.51 percent—was new graduates looking for jobs, the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics said.

In August, the island's jobless rate might exceed 5 percent while, for the full year, the jobless rate was expected to rise over 4.3 percent, said Chen Jincherng, a deputy director at DGBAS.

Chen also warned that while usually the jobless rate tended to decline in September as students return to school, given the "complexity of economic conditions, it is hard to say" whether that pattern will repeat itself this year.

Taiwan's export-oriented economy is in a recession in large part due to the global economic and high-tech sector slowdown.

However, structural changes in the economy are also causing displacement in the island's workforce.

Local manufacturing firms are moving production to cheaper areas overseas, most importantly to China, while the government strives to stimulate weak domestic demand and reverse a protracted property sector slump. *AP*

Thailand posts $137-M deficit

BANGKOK, Thailand—With exports contracting and imports surging, Thailand registered a trade deficit of $137 million in July, according to preliminary data from the Customs Department.

Somchaineuk Engtrakul, Finance Ministry permanent secretary, said late Wednesday that exports processed through the department amounted to $5.321 billion, while imports totaled $5.458 billion.

The data confirms the sharp slowdown in Thai exports due to the global economic conditions.

Thailand's economy, which never fully recovered from the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, relies heavily on exports to drive growth.

The official forecast for economic growth this year of 2 to 3 percent is regarded by many analysts as optimistic.

According to government data, Thai exports are expected to decline 0.5 to 2 percent this year, compared with a growth of 19.6 percent last year.

However, no explanation was immediately available for the soaring import figure in July.

Final trade figures for each month, which are issued by the central bank, are usually announced at the end of the following month.

The Customs Department figures take into account goods that have passed through customs, while the central bank figures will include both goods that have passed through customs and those in transit.

The preliminary central bank data for the six months to June still show a $467-million trade surplus, despite a 0.9-percent decline in exports to $31.654 billion, and a 7.2-percent rise in imports to $31.187 billion. *AP*

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late **CORAZON S. TOLENTINO** was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc.#340, Page #70, Book #42, Series of 2001 under Not. Pub. Lope M. Velasco of Mla.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

**Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSE ABAD had been extrajudicially settled through a Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement with the sale executed on Aug. 19, 1999, in San Antonio, Zambales, duly notarized on same date before Atty. Germana Antipolo-Bactan, a notary public for and in San Antonio, Zambales, and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 165, Page No. 34, Book No. XIX, Series of 1999.
(PDI-Aug. 10,17 & 2, 2001)**

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of PICOP Stock Certificates issued to **Col. GERONIMO G. SABELLANO.** If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

Notice is given on the loss of ANSCOR Stock Certificates issued to **Col. GERONIMO G. SABELLANO.** If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

NOTICE is hereby given that **EQUITABLE-PCI BANK** Stck Certs. # 2916 , (353 shrs), 10235 (141 shrs) and 15810 (144 shrs) legally and lawfully issued to DONNA T. CANCIO were lost as acknowledged by Atty. Constantino L. Reyes Not. Public in and for QC, Doc.#231, Page# 47, Bk#2 Series of 2001.
(PDI-Aug. 17, 24 & 31, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask

Investors seek spark of life after rates cut

NEW YORK—US markets gave only a lukewarm welcome Wednesday to the Federal Reserve's quarter-point interest rate cut to stimulate the economy, but experts told them to be more patient.

Stocks edged slightly higher, a day after falling in disappointment that the Federal Reserve failed to paint a more optimistic outlook on the economy when it cut rates for the seventh time this year.

In early Wall Street trade, the blue-chip Dow Jones index climbed 0.17 percent to 10,190.27 and the technology-laden Nasdaq index rose up 0.70 percent to 1,844.06.

"It is not an exuberant reaction, and I think in part that is because it has been anticipated for a while that the Fed would cut yesterday," Harris Bank economist Tim O'Neill said.

Markets had been treading water with a soft downside as they absorbed news of poor corporate earnings and waited in vain for clear signs of an economic recovery, O'Neill said.

"The recent past is very gloomy on earnings and the near-term outlook is still pretty subdued because the economy has not turned around yet," the economist added.

Many investors were also expecting interest rate cuts to have an impact too soon, he said, since monetary policy easing traditionally took six to nine months to feed through to the economy.

"The very earliest you would see an impact from the January cuts would be early in the third quarter and the full impact really is even a couple of quarters later than that," O'Neill said. *AFP*

FOR LAGGARD U.S. ECONOMY

Consumers seen as best hope

WASHINGTON—The US Federal Reserve's fast-fire campaign of interest-rate cuts may be nearly over, analysts say, leaving it to consumers to pick up the spending torch to ignite a recovery.

Eight months into one of the most determined rate-slashing campaigns in the US central bank's history, with interest costs the lowest since 1994, debate remains whether the economy is on the cusp of renewed growth or spiraling down.

But after seven straight rate cuts, including a quarter percentage point reduction on Tuesday that dropped the key federal funds lending rate to 3.5 percent—three full percentage points below its Jan. 1 level—the Fed's ammunition might be running low.

"The Fed has done the majority of what it can do," said economist David Orr of First Union National Bank in Charlotte, North Carolina. "Its job is to make sure that there are lots of liquidity in the system and that interest rates are not an impediment to spending. They've done that."

Yet the Fed acknowledged, after its Federal Open Market Committee meeting on Tuesday, that the mighty US economy remained beset by problems and that its best hope was the consumer.

"Household demand has been sustained, but business profits and capital spending continue to weaken and growth abroad is slowing, weighing on the US economy," the Fed said.

That was reflected in the performance of US equity markets, which sank after the Fed rate-cut announcement, though normally such action bolsters stock prices. Policymakers seemed to be shifting their hopes onto consumers' shoulders, with some reason.

"The Fed has been aggressive in bringing the federal funds rate to where it was in 1994 and so you have to ask how much farther they can go," said economist Kathleen Stephansen of Credit Suisse First Boston in New York.

"The answer is that they can go further but now we really are looking at the tax cuts and rebates coming into the system and at the Fed's observation that household spending was being sustained," she added.

Credit Suisse estimates that over the next four quarters, tax cuts will boost household cash flows by $50 billion in the second half of this year and by about $80 billion next year, a healthy shot if the money is spent instead of saved.

"If there is enough evidence that the money is being spent, then you can make the case that the Fed is essentially done," Stephansen said. "But if there is no evidence of that or if it is disappointing between now and October, then the Fed most likely will continue easing."

The policymaking FOMC next meets on Oct. 2, and 14 of 25 primary dealers in US government securities, surveyed by Reuters on Tuesday, predict at least one more rate reduction this year.

Orr said there was reason to be optimistic that consumers, who fueled two-thirds of national economic activity, would keep the economy out of recession. *Reuters*

Number of laid-off workers jumps

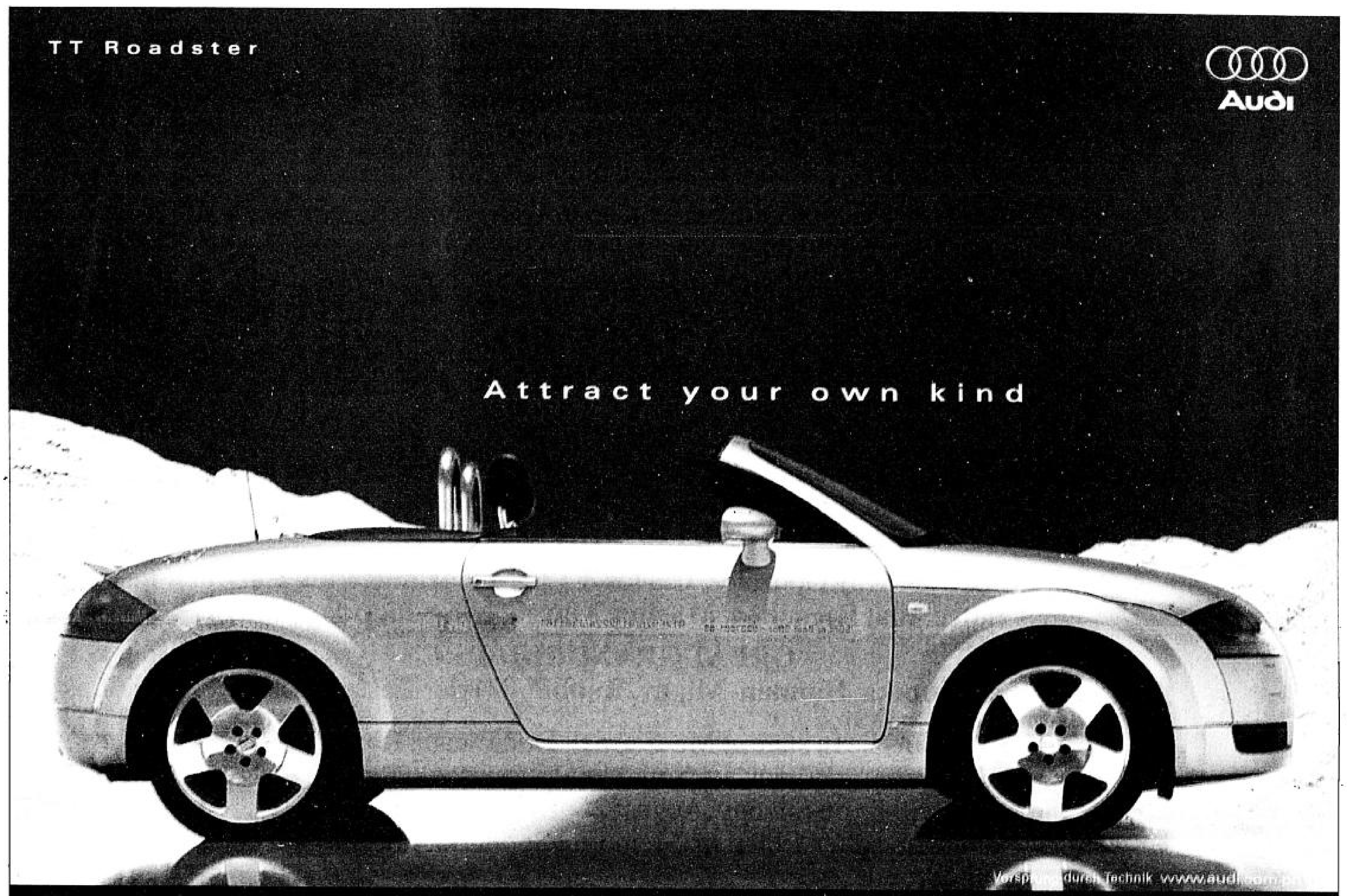
WASHINGTON—The number of US workers laid off from their jobs jumped nearly 44 percent in the second quarter compared with that of the same period last year, the Labor Department said Wednesday.

Nearly 372,000 workers lost their jobs in mass layoff actions in April, May and June this year, up nearly 31,000 from the previous quarter and up more than 113,000 from the second quarter of 2000, the government said in its quarterly report.

The number of laid-off workers was the largest for the second quarter since 1998, when strikes at two General Motors Corp. parts plants prompted the major automaker to shut down 27 of its 29 North American assembly plants, at one point idling more than 200,000 workers.

For the first half of the year, the number of laid off workers totaled more than 712,000, up nearly 40 percent from the first half of 2000, the government said.

More than a third of the layoffs in the second quarter of 2001 were in the hard-hit manufacturing sector, which has been in a recession for a year and had been hemorrhaging workers as it bore the brunt of the sharp US economic slowdown. *Reuters*



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"The Lord is my light and my salvation" Psalm 27:1

CONSTANCIO E. CASTAÑEDA, SR.

of La Paz, Tarlac

May 13, 1913 — August 22, 2001

Our beloved **Tanciong**
A good father, a loving husband
A dedicated public servant

Though we may have to face and endure an empty space in our hearts,
We rejoice in thanksgiving to the Almighty for giving us Daddy
Who is and will forever be part of our lives.

His loving wife

EVENG

CHILDREN

Constancio Jr. & Arsenia, **Emmanuel** & Carla, Alberto & **Ma. Martha** Rivera, **Engracio** & Lulubelle, Antonio & **Grace** Adan, **Anna Francisca**, Ernesto & **Macaria** Llamas, & **Narciso** & Cleofe

GRANDCHILDREN

Cons & Deedee, Bobby & **Kay** Gonzalez, **Carlos** & Liza, **Charlane, Luis, Pachuchu, Dondi, Koji, Sotee, Ina, Paco, Bea, Marina, Marga, Niño, Piccolo** & **Mariel**

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Daniel, Sara, Anika, Hannah, Miggy, Robbie, Trixie, Tristan, Alyssa & **Martina**

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue,
Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.
Interment will be on Sunday, August 26, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat, Parañaque after 1:00 p.m. Memorial Service at Mt. Carmel, Quezon City

---

"I am the Resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in Me.
Though he should die, will come to life;
And whoever is alive and believes in Me,
will never die."
John 11:26

ROGELIO MAGSINO AGUAS

(September 22, 1925 – August 20, 2001)

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 20, 2001.

His beloved wife **VICTORIA**; children **REDEMPTO & BETH, ROGELIO Jr. & NORMA, ROLANDO (†) & JANE, REMEDIOS & ARTURO, REGINA & RODELYN, ROWENA & MONCHING, REGALADO & EMELINDA, RUBEN & JENNY, RAUL & SYLVIA, RODEL & MILA, VIRON & CHERRYL**; his mother-in-law **LORENZA**; his grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters-in-law, relatives, his brothers & sisters in Immaculate Heart Community and friends, request the pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the HOUSE OF MANY MANSIONS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, MacArthur Highway, Angeles City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 28, 2001 at the La Pieta Memorial Park, Angeles City, after the 8:30 a.m. Requiem Mass at the Carmelite Chapel, Angeles City.

MARCELINA BARTOLOME CASTILLO

Joined her Creator on Saturday, August 18, 2001,
3:34 a.m. at the Victoria General Hospital,
Victoria British Columbia, Canada.

Interment will be on Friday, August 24, 2001 at the Royal Oak Cemetery, after the 12:10 p.m. Mass to be held at the St. Patrick's Church, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

The bereaved family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Eusebio "Boie" P. Corpus

April 16, 1948 — August 22, 2001

His wife **Linda**; children **Buddy** and **Mylene**; mother **Ching**; brother **Ronnie**; sisters **Becky, Millie** and **Nila**; brothers-in-law **Rene** and **Juancho**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to say a prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at Chapel E of the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

FELICISIMO "ISING" M. MESINA

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 22, 2001
at the age of 63.

His loving mother **Coring Mesina**; brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels from August 22 to 25, 2001 and will be transferred to their residence at Pantalan Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on August 28, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

EDMUNDO G. HONASAN

October 30, 1926 – July 01, 2001

His legacy cannot be measured in written attestations of accomplishments, But in the beauty and magnanimity of his spirit.

Thank you
one and all for walking hand in hand
with us, as we say goodbye.
May those who have gone before him
welcome our beloved ***Munding*** *into*
God's bosom.

From wife **Letty**;
children **Lissa, Eddgie,**
Bobby, Baby, Dee, Leng
& Family.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

Yolanda P. Compendio

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 22, 2001
at the age of 58.

Her loving family, husband **PEDRO**; children **NOY** and Cathy, **VIC** and Ana, **TONY**, **GENER** and Julie, and **JOJO**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Compendio residence, M.H. del Pilar St., Liliw, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 26, 2001 at 2 p.m. at the Liliw Memorial Cemetery.

Eternal life will
swallow up that which
can die. God made us
for this very reason and
He has given us the
Spirit as a guarantee
that we will live again.
2 Cor. 5:4-5

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INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Final arrow

Q. What's the origin of the expression 'parting shot'?

A. A *parting shot* (as distinguished from the normally endearing *parting word* or *parting remark*) is a hostile comment made at the end of a conversation or argument when leaving, so allowing its recipient no opportunity to give an answer to it. It's actually a corruption of *Parthian shot*, historically the final shot of the ancient Middle Eastern warriors, the Parthians, who were renowned for shooting arrows at their enemy pursuers while fleeing or pretending to flee.

For the Record. On his way to winning the men's individual archery gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, 26-year-old Jay Barrs of the US 'psyched' himself up by listening to heavy metal music between rounds. At the other extreme of the standings was Derrick Tenai, a security guard who represented the Solomon Islands. Tennai had never seen a modern bow until he arrived in Seoul and it showed in the open round: while he hit the target 89 times, he also missed it 55 times. None of the other 83 entries missed the target more than 5 times and 65 of them had no misses at all.

Classified Odd. In Taiwan last year, Dr. Jung Kao-fang of the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital reported that the hospital has received 82 patients, 52 of them women, suffering from 'lovemaking anxiety' caused by mobile phones and beepers. "The phones would ring and beepers beep in the middle of lovemaking," Jung said. "The husbands either hurried through or stopped to rush out for business appointments."

WORD WATCH

Istorbo : from the Spanish *estorbo*, 'hindrance' brother' annoyance.'

PDI – Aug. 24, 2001

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sbma
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA")**, through the Bids and Awards Committee ("PBAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/ Contractors to pre-qualify to a public bidding for the following:

ONE (1) UNIT TRACTOR HEAD, 6X4 (10 WHEELER)
ONE (1) UNIT CRASH FIRE RESCUE TRUCK, 8X8
TWO (2) UNITS AMBULANCE, WITH ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT GEARS AND ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UNIT DEFRIBILLATOR WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UNIT ELECTRO CARDIO GRAPH (ECG) MACHINE

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/ contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. VAT Registration
4. Certificate of Registration with the Department of Trade and Industry (If not Corporation)
5. Valid Mayor's Permit
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Product
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification Fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **August 31, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Room 201, Building 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.
Secretary, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA/BFAR) invites eligible Boat Builders/Manufacturers to prequalify and to bid for the construction and delivery of 48 units 27-footer Patrol Boats made of Fiberglass Reinforce Plastic (FRP) hull, a project under the Bantay Dagat Program, RP-Japan Increased Food Production Program (KR II).

A Two Envelope System or the Single Stage Bidding Variations shall be adapted which requires bidders to submit their Technical and Financial Proposals separately in two-sealed envelopes. The Technical Proposal shall be opened first and evaluated to determine their conformity with the Technical requirements. Bidders shall be evaluated based on the compliance of the pre-qualification requirements and Technical Proposal.

Only the Financial Envelopes of the Technically compliant Bidders shall be opened and evaluated further. Financial Envelope of non-compliant bidder shall be returned unopened.

Interested Parties can obtain the pre-qualification requirements at the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the 7th Floor Arcadia Bldg., 860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City from **August 31** to **September 5, 2001.**

Deadline for submission of two (2) copies of pre-qualification documents will be on **September 12** to **14, 2001**.

Bidding document will be made available only to prequalified bidder, upon presentation of the Notice of pre-qualification on **September 25** to **27, 2001** and upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **October 4, 2001** at the BFAR Conference Room, Arcadia Bldg., 860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City at 2:00 p.m.

Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals (4 copies each) **October 15, 2001** at 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. at the BFAR Conference Room.

Opening of Technical Proposal will be on **October 15, 2001** at 2:00 p.m.

Failure to comply with the requirements shall be the immediate ground for disqualification.

Only duly Licensed and MARINA Accredited Shipbuilders/Contractors are qualified to participate.

DA/BFAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the winning bidder with the most advantageous offer to DA/BFAR. The DA/BFAR assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does not guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **CESAR M. DRILON, JR.**
Undersecretary & Chairman, DA/BFAR PBAC

(PDI - Aug. 24, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SERVICES
City of Legazpi

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Legazpi is inviting all authorized distributors/dealers of Garbage Compactor to participate in our forthcoming public bidding for the supply of

QUANTITY	SPECIFICATIONS
5 units	6-Tonner Garbage Compactor (Second hand)

The sealed proposal shall be accepted, evaluated and publicly opened at the General Services Office, City Hall Compound, City of Legazpi until 2:00 P.M. on **September 3, 2001.**

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bidder's proposal bond in Cash or Certified Check in the amount equivalent to 5% (five percent) of the bid price offered or a surety bond in the amount equivalent to 10% (ten percent) of the bid price offered.

The price quotation shall be in the Philippine Currency and shall include all government taxes, fees, or duties and other incidental expenses.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects therein or to accept such bids as may be found most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROLEO R. BATTUNG**
General Services Officer

(PDI - Aug. 23, 24 & 25, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel: 911-6433/911-6001 Loc. 8592; Tel/Fax: 912-5491
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the UPGRADE OF ONE (1) BO-105C HELICOPTER of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of ***Forty Nine Million Six Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (Php 49,006,400.00)*** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities duly authorized by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and appropriate civil aviation authority which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce the BO-105C Helicopter shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***August 24, 2001*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***September 7, 2001*** at ***2:00 PM*** (local time) at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BO-105C Helicopter and Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on ***September 28, 2001*** at ***9:00 AM*** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at 10:00 AM at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO H. DE LEON**
Commodore AFP
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 24 & 25, 2001)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47 loc. 2101-2102 / 840-2024
Fax Nos. (632) 840-1459

PNOC The Energy Company

INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites accredited/pre-qualified contractors to submit sealed bids for the:

SECURITY SERVICES FOR PNOC EC SAN ANTONIO GAS PLANT (SAGP) AT ECHAGUE, ISABELA
(SGO-613)

Bid documents shall be available for issuance to pre-qualified and accredited contractors starting **August 20, 2001**.

For the purpose of clarifications, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on **August 30, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the San Antonio Gas Plant, Brgy. Minit, Echague, Isabela.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received not later than 5:00 p.m. of **September 6, 2001** at the above address or at SAGP Admin. Office, Echague, Isabela. Public opening of bids shall be scheduled at a later date which shall be determined by PNOC EC.

PNOC-EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.**
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - Aug. 24, 2001)

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that APV PHILIPPINES, INC. has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission an Amendment of its Articles of Incorporation, shortening its corporate life to **December 31, 2001**.

Any person who may have a claim against said corporation may present the same to MS. PERMA NAVARROZA at the principal office at 7/F Common Goal Tower Finance Street, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The announcement serves as notice to all parties concerned of the dissolution of said Company.

(Sgd.) **ELIZER A. ODULIO**
Corporate Secretary
APV Philippines, Inc.

(PDI – Aug. 17, 24 & 27, 2001)

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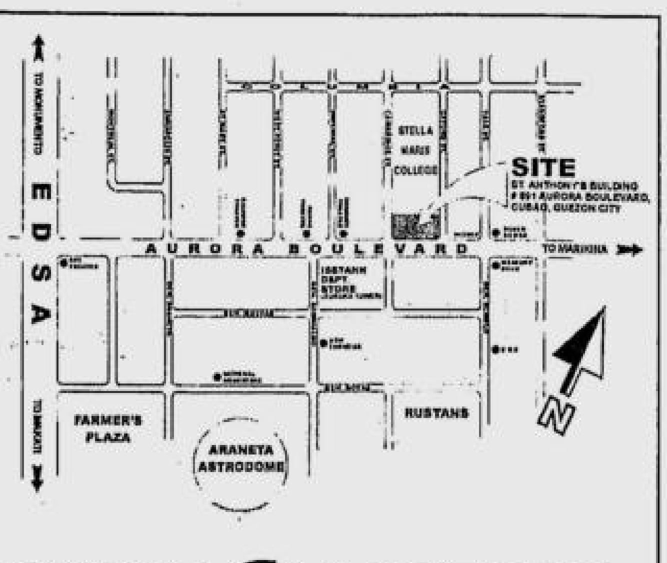
OBITUARIES



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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ATTY. NUMERIANO S. DECLARO

who joined his Creator on August 8, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

PASTOR SAMUEL COBILE VECINA

and wife

JOCELYN TINDUGAN VECINA

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of our Lord on the 18th day of August 2001.

Their bereaved children **Phoebe Grace, Samuel Jr., Jemuel, Vina Bliss** and **Lovely**; loving parents **Filomena, George** and **Lina**; brothers **Fred, Castrence, Jun, Ephraim** and **Glenn**; sisters **Wenie, Ruth** and **Lily**; **Baby, Grace** and **Joy**; relatives and friends.

Their remains now lie in state at Reborn Christian Church, No. 35, 21st Place Street, West Bajac-bajac, Olongapo City.

Interment on Sunday, August 26, 2001 at 3:00 p.m., Olongapo Memorial Park.

BETTY G. NGO

Director of SOLANDA ENTERPRISES, INC.
AND GROUP OF COMPANIES

Peacefully joined our LORD
on August 22, 2001at the age of 50.

Her beloved brothers and sisters **Luisa, Lusen** (†), **Tomas, Antonio, Jose, Vicente, Lilian**; nephews and niece, friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Tomas Mapua Street, Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DON BOSCO CHAPELS Pasay Road, Makati City Tel. 894-5932 to 34 • **FUNERARIA FILIPINAS** 965 J.P. Rizal Ave., Makati City • **NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES** 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Q.C. Tel. 713-5231 to 35 / 714-0867 / 714-0868 •
FUNERARIA ORO 1432 G. Tuazon St., Sampaloc, Manila Tel. 734-7141/44 / 734-7983 / 834-5698 • **HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS** Sucat, Parañaque City Tel. 825-1296 / 825-1291 • **LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.** 1601 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila Tel. 711-6931 to 35 / 732-4795 •
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC. 143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Q.C. Tel. 749-3806 to 11 • **LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS** Guadalupe, Makati City Tel. 895-1011 to 19 • **OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE** Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., Broadway, New Manila, Q.C. Tel. 723-3003 Fax: 727-0814 • **PRUDENTIAL**
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SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH • McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City Tel. 843-6630 Loc. 137 • **ST. ALPHONSOUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH** Mag ea Village, Makati City Tel. 852-0228 / 852-7284 •
ST. JEROME EMILIANI CHURCH Commerce Ave., Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City Tel. 842-4947 • **ST. PETER MEMORIAL CHAPELS** 296 Quezon Avenue, Q.C. Tel. 372-5094 / 410-9286/87 • **STOL DOMINGO CHL CH** Quezon Avenue, Quezon City Tel. 712-6271 / 712-6272 • **MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
Arellano St., Dagupan City Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; (0919) 348-7131

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E-mail: adjusupbekova@adb.org or fpalabrica@adb.org

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION TO BID FOR PROVISION OF LOCAL COMPUTER BACK-UP SITE FACILITIES AND SERVICES (ADB/OAS-2001/023)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of local computer back-up site facilities and services. The Contractor shall provide the facilities and services to enable ADB to resume its Mainframe and/or SWIFT and/or ERP/INTEGRA processing in the event that its computer facilities become inaccessible. The local back-up site must be located within Metro Manila, Philippines.

2. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223W, at the above address from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on any working day starting from **27 to 31 August 2001** upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00) at ADB Cash Room, Room G239W.

3. Last day for submission of application for prequalificaiton is **11 September 2001.**

4. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by the ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **3-4 October 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00) payable in cash or check to the ADB.

5. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the bidder. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification without incurring any liability or any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds for ADB's action.

Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – Aug. 23 & 24, 2001)

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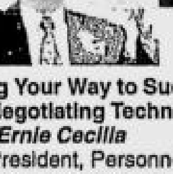
Assertiveness in Communication (Effective Communication Strategy)
Moje Ramos-Aquino
Former President,
Asian Regional Training & Development Organization
August 28 (Tuesday)



Negotiating Your Way to Success (Effective Negotiating Techniques)
Ernie Cecilia
1999 President, Personnel Management Association of the Philippines
August 29 (Wednesday)

Achieving Your Personal Vision in Troubled Times (Effective Career Planning & Management)
Tita Datu Puangco
President,
Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting
August 30 (Thursday)

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Venue: Makati Sports Club, L. P. Leviste St. (formerly Alfaro St.) cor. Gallardo St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Registration fee per seminar: Professionals-P300, Students-P150, For first 100 registrants-P225, One free ticket for every group of 5, Six free tickets for every group of 15. Fee includes hand-outs, certificate of completion and snacks.

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Main-Pasong Tamo, Makati City, 897-8808/897-2535; G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City 811-4361/ 811-4370/811-4012; St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Quezon City 421-1420/421-0343; SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City 635-0219/ 637-2008; G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila 527-3342/ 528-0183/ 527-6357.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESIDENCY
Of the Surigao del Sur Polytechnic State College
Tandag, Surigao del Sur

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITION

SUC PRESIDENT I

Minimum Qualifications for the Position:

1. Holder of an earned doctorate degree;
2. Not over 60 years old on the date of application;
3. Relevant and proven administrative leadership and experience;
4. Possess leadership and management skills; and
5. Known for probity and moral integrity.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, interested persons must submit the following clearances:

a. Ombudsman;
b. Civil Service Commission;
c. National Bureau of Investigation.

Application/Nomination should be accompanied by:

a. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé, documentary evidences relative to the qualifications;
b. Statements of Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the College;
c. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric examination in a sealed envelope.

Applicants are requested to submit seven (7) sets of formal application and certified supporting documents not later than **August 31, 2001** to:

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 5, MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
MINOR KATHRYN DE JESUS DUNTON

Sp. Proc. No. 01-101376

SPS. MICHAEL LE ROY JOHNSON
and GINA SARMIENTO JOHNSON
Petitioner.
x--------------------------------x

ORDER

In a verified petition filed with this Court by petitioner, SPS. MICHAEL LE ROY JOHNSON and GINA SARMIENTO JOHNSON, through counsel, they pray that after due notice, publication, and hearing, judgment be rendered granting the adoption of the minor KATHRYN DE JESUS DUNTON.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court hereby sets the initial hearing of this petition on September 12, 2001 at 8:30 in the morning, at which time and date, all interested parties are cited to appear and show cause if any why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in a newspaper published, edited, and of general circulation within Metro Manila once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, and a copy of this Order with the petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila and the DSWD-NCR. The Department of Social Welfare and Development-NCR is hereby directed to conduct a Social Case Study as required by law for a period of one (1) month upon receipt of this Order and to submit to this Court the Child Study and Home Study reports and their recommendation on the matter at least one week before the scheduled date of hearing.

SO ORDERED.
Manila, August 1, 2001

(Sgd.) AMALIA R. ANDRADE
Judge

(PDI – Aug. 17, 24 & 31, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
LUNGSOD NG QUEZON SANGAY II (SIBILYAN)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon 1101
QUEZON CITY BRANCH BIDDING COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites all interested parties to prequalify and submit sealed proposals for the office requirements of the GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, as follows:

ITEMS/DESCRIPTION

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

To handle the following:

1. JANITORIAL SERVICES – nine (9) janitors
2. SECURITY SERVICES – eleven (11) security guards

Inquiries on pre-qualification, details of the requirements, terms, and conditions, and official Bid Forms may be referred to the Chief, Administrative Division, GSIS Quezon City Branch Office, during office hours at Tel. No/s. 922-61-78 or 924-27-41.

For the purpose, the Bidding Schedule is prescribed:

Pre-qualification : September 07, 2001
Date of Bidding : September 17, 2001

9:00 A.M. Security Services
2:00 P.M. Janitorial Services

Sealed Bids in triplicate shall be submitted with a refundable cash bid security equivalent to 5% of the total amount of the bid. Manager's/Cashiers's of Certified Checks shall be acceptable as cash.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality on the bids received, and accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the System, but does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR P. EVANGELISTA
Manager

(PDI - Aug. 22, 24 & 31, 2001)

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- QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANT
- TRUCK DRIVER

Qualified applicants are requested to hand-carry their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. only at

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested/prospective bidders/suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation for the Upgrading of PABX Integral 33xE W2 Module Telephone System for the Metrostar Express.

Issuance of accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., **September 12, 2001.**

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIO C. MIRANDA**
Acting General Manager
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Aug. 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

Taxes applicable to sole proprietors

BY SONIA A. DE LA TORRE

TAX-FILES

IT CANNOT be denied that more Filipinos are venturing into business these days. It is understandable because getting into the right kind of business provides a better opportunity for these people to make lots of money.

Even the small sole proprietors have certain responsibilities to the government, and one of them is to pay taxes. Here, we will talk about the common types of taxes that Filipino sole proprietors are subject to.

Before sole proprietors can pay taxes, they have to comply with administrative requirements like getting their tax identification number (TIN) from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Each individual should have only one TIN even if he engages in many kinds of businesses. Entrepreneurs also need to get local business permits and need to register with the Revenue District Office where their businesses are located.

Individuals who are earning income from self-employment are subject to income tax for each taxable year at a rate that ranges from 5 percent to 32 percent based on their taxable income during the year.

Gross income

Taxable income is derived by deducting all allowable expenses from gross income. Gross income includes income from whatever source derived from the conduct of trade or business, services or exercise of profession.

This does not include passive income, which are subject to final tax such as interest income on domestic bank deposits, royalties and dividends.

Allowable expenses cover all the ordinary and necessary expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year in carrying on or which are directly attributable to the development, management, operation and/or conduct of trade, business or exercise of profession.

For expenses to be deductible, they must also be substantiated with sufficient evidence, such as third party official receipts issued in the name of their business and other adequate records. Expenses of individuals which are personal in nature like household expenses and tuition fees of children are not deductible as part of business expenses.

Also, expenses that are contrary to laws and morals such as bribes, kickbacks and other similar payments are not allowed as deduction. In lieu of the itemized deductions, individuals may choose to apply a standard deduction in an amount not exceeding 10 percent of their gross income by signifying in their return of such intention.

Individual entrepreneurs are also allowed to deduct the personal exemption that ranges from P20,000 to P32,000 per year depending on their civil status. In case of married individuals, only the spouse that gets an income shall be allowed personal exemption.

Exemption

An additional exemption of P8,000 for up to four dependents is also allowed. The additional exemption should be claimed by only one of the spouses in case of married individuals. This should be claimed by the husband unless he explicitly waives his right in favor of his wife in the application for registration with the BIR or in the withholding exemption certificate, he is unemployed or is a nonresident citizen deriving income from foreign resources.

Individuals who are earning income merely for subsistence and livelihood which does not exceed P100,000 in a year are not subject to the tax.

The income tax return for the taxable year shall be filed and paid on or before April 15 of the following year with, generally, the authorized agent bank within the district office where the principal place of business is located.

When the tax due goes over P2,000, the sole proprietor may choose to pay the tax in two equal installments, in which case, the first installment shall be paid at the time the return is filed and the second installment on or before July 15 following the close of the calendar year.

If the income of the entrepreneurs is subject to the expanded withholding tax, which is actually a creditable tax, by their clients and other parties, such withheld taxes may be deducted from the income tax due provided there are supporting certificates of creditable taxes issued by the withholding agent in the year when the same are claimed as deduction.

If the withholding taxes exceed the income tax due from the individuals, it may be carried over and applied against the income tax due the succeeding years.

In this case, the income tax return showing the excess creditable withholding taxes shall be attached to the income tax return where it is carried over.

In case of a loss, the loss may be used as deduction against the gross taxable income for the next succeeding three years.

Self-employed individuals may also be liable to pay business taxes namely the value added tax (VAT) or percentage tax. Each line of business may either be subject to VAT or percentage tax. Hence, it is possible that proprietors may be subject to both taxes when they are engaged in two or more activities.

Individuals engaged in the sale of goods and services are generally subject to VAT except on activities which are VAT-exempt.

They may be subject to either the 10 percent or zero-rated VAT based on gross sales, for sale of goods, or gross receipts for sale of services.

The term "gross receipts" means cash or its equivalent actually received or constructively received (excluding the value-added tax) as:

(a) Payments on the contract price, compensation, service fee, rental or royalty;

(b) Payments for materials supplied with the services;

(c) Deposits or advanced payments on the contract for services.

The term "goods or properties" shall mean all tangible and intangible objects which are capable of pecuniary extinction while "sale or exchange of services," for this purpose, means the performance of all kinds of services in the Philippines for others for a fee, remuneration or consideration.

Tax code

The Tax Code defines sales that are considered zero-rated or effectively zero-rated. The common examples of these are export sales that are paid in foreign currency and regulations of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Sales of services effected or rendered in the Philippines even if paid in foreign currency are generally subject to the 10-percent VAT. The Tax Code also enumerates VAT exempt sales. Examples of these are:

(a) Sale of non-food agricultural, marine and forest products in their original state by the primary producer or the owner of the land where the same are produced;

(b) Sale of agricultural, marine food products, cotton and cotton seed in their original state; copra; livestock and poultry of a kind generally used as, or yielding or producing food for human consumption; and breeding stock and genetic materials therefore;

(c) Sale of fertilizers; seeds, seedlings, and fingerlings; fish, prawn, livestock and poultry feeds, including ingredients, whether locally produced or imported, used in the manufacture of finished feeds except specialty feeds for race horses, fighting cocks, aquarium fish, zoo animals and other animals generally considered as pets;

(d) Services by agricultural contract growers and milling for others of palay into rice, corn into grits and sugar cane into raw sugar;

(e) Medical, dental, hospital and veterinary services subject to the provisions of Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7716 as amended;

(f) Sale by the artist himself of his works of arts, literary works, musical compositions and similar creations, or his services performed in the production of such works;

(g) Export sales by persons who are not VAT registered;

(h) Sale or lease of goods or properties or the performance of services aside from the other VAT exempt transactions, the gross annual sales and or receipts that do not exceed P 550,000.

VAT

The Tax Code also allows optional VAT registration for various VAT-exempt transactions, an example of which is that stated in item (h) above. Those who opt to be VAT registered shall be subject to VAT at the rate of 10 percent or zero percent.

The VAT liability shall, basically, be determined by deducting the allowable input tax credits from the computed output tax. The output tax is determined by multiplying to 10 percent the amount of sales, exclusive of VAT, in the case of sale of goods, or the gross receipts, in the case of sale of services.

The input tax credit may be claimed on the VAT paid on imports and purchases that are attributable to the VAT taxable activities. Input taxes on local purchases may be allowed if supported by third party VAT invoices (for purchases of goods) or VAT official receipts (for purchase of services) bearing BIR authority to print and are issued in the sole proprietor's business name.

VAT invoices/official receipts are those that bear the imprinted supplier's TIN followed by the word "VAT."

The input tax is derived by dividing the total VAT payment, including the taxes withheld, by 11. Input taxes on imports are equivalent to the VAT paid on such imports that are usually evidenced by import entry declarations duly filed with the Bureau of Customs.

No input tax shall be claimed on purchases that are related to transactions not subject to VAT like the VAT-exempt transactions. Likewise, input taxes on purchases of motor vehicles with engine displacement of 2000 cc are not allowed as credit against the output tax subject to certain exceptions.

Input taxes

The input taxes may be claimed in the month or quarter when the related purchases or payments, in case of purchase of services, are made. In case the input taxes for the month or quarter exceed the output tax for the same period, such excess may usually be carried over to the succeeding month's/quarter's return.

A claim for refund or tax credit may be made subject to certain conditions. Input taxes shall not be allowed as credit if a claim for refund or tax credit on the same has been applied for.

Proprietors are required to file and pay the monthly VAT declaration and quarterly VAT returns on or before the 25th day following the end of the applicable month or quarter when the sales or receipts are made, generally, with the AAB within the district office where the principal place of business is located.

Proprietors may also be subject to percentage tax at the rate of 3 percent based on their gross sales or receipts, if their gross sales or receipts during the year do not exceed P550,000 and they did not opt to register as a VAT taxpayer.

Percentage tax is not applicable to transactions which are considered VAT-exempt under the Tax Code except where the VAT exemption is due to not having a gross sales or receipts of more than P550,000 in a year.

The 3-percent tax based on gross receipts is also imposed to domestic carriers and keepers of garages as defined in the Tax Code.

Amusement taxes, which is a form of percentage tax, at various rates ranging from 10 percent to 30 percent based on gross receipts are also imposed to the proprietor, lessee or operator of cockpits, cabarets, night or day clubs, boxing exhibitions, professional basketball games subject to certain limitations, jai alai and racetracks.

The percentage tax return shall be filed in paid within 20 days following the end of the quarter when the related sales or gross receipts were made. The taxpayer has the option to file a separate return for each branch or place of business or a consolidated return for all branches or places of business with, generally, the AAB within the district office where such business or principal place of business is located, as the case maybe.

Proprietors may also be considered as withholding agents insofar as their income payments made to their suppliers and employees are concerned.

Generally, proprietors are required to withhold the expanded withholding tax at various rates on income payments or due to suppliers of services outlined in Revenue Regulations 2-98.

Only those transactions enumerated in the regulations are subject to the expanded withholding tax. Salaries and compensation, subject to certain exceptions, given to employees are also subject to the withholding tax on wages.

Individual entrepreneurs may also be subject to the final withholding tax at various rates on certain transactions, such as royalty payments, also stated in Revenue Regulations 2-98.

The taxes withheld shall be remitted to the BIR by filing the appropriate return with, generally, the authorized agent bank within the district office where the principal place of business is located, within 10 days after the end of the month when withholding was made.

Proprietors

Proprietors may also be required to pay fringe benefits tax at 32 percent based on the gross monetary value of certain benefits given to their non-rank and file employees as provided in Revenue Regulations 3-98.

The fringe benefits tax return shall be filed and paid with the same venue as the withholding tax return within 25 days after the end of each quarter when such benefits were provided.

Sole proprietors are also required to register every year and pay the registration fee of P500 usually on or before Jan. 31 in each district office where each of their business is located. Local business tax shall also be paid within Jan. 20 in each locality where each business is situated.

Proprietors are also subject to various administrative requirements which is a subject of a separate discussion.

This article may not be comprehensive enough in presenting the taxes applicable to sole proprietors but it is hoped that this will serve as a starting point for individual entrepreneurs to know their tax responsibilities to the government.

Dotcom firm aims to be part of people's lives

BY MICHELLE V. REMO

FOCUSING on a particular consumer group is the name of the game for most firms as knowing whom you are selling your products to, is what will eventually rake in the profits.

But for Yehey.com, owned by iVantage Corp., this is not the case.

According to Hazel Atienza, Yehey's marketing manager, it adopts the so-called "lifestyle strategy" as its business model. With the said strategy, Yehey aims to capture the fancy of a general audience with different lifestyles—students, professionals, mothers, sports buffs, etc.

She says they try to make Yehey a part of people's everyday routine. Turning on the computer and logging on to Yehey either for e-mail, chat, shopping, research, news or entertainment is the modern lifestyle that Yehey wants to inculcate among its audience.

To substantiate the business model, Yehey has deviated from being a mere search engine to becoming an all-around portal that caters to the needs of a diverse market. Atienza explains that the three main features of Yehey are the channels, e-commerce and communication facilities (i.e. chat venues and e-mail). The three provide the main reasons why people go online: information and communication.

Yehey's channels include up-to-date information on sports, news, health, recipes, business and entertainment among others. Atienza also says that providing everyday sought-for information like zip codes, horoscopes, stock market updates and even MRT schedules is the reason why Yehey attracts people.

Yehey has also found more creative ways to source out revenues. Atienza explains that the reason for the recent dotcom crash was the monotony of the feature of search engines and their dependence mainly on banner advertisements for survival. She explains that having various features and services that a portal can offer, Yehey becomes more viable. Having an online gift shop, for example, Yehey gets revenues from firms that rent its spaces or from a percentage from every product sold online. Yehey also provides web development services for clients who want to come up with their own webpage.

Aside from these and the usual banner ads, Yehey can also get revenues from its market research services.

During the recent "Adventure" seminar, Matthew Harty, vice president for Australia and Asia of Engage media, said "The real benefit of (doing online marketing research) is that we can open communication with customers." Since most firms conduct time-consuming research to know the demands of their market, making the work easier by going online is beneficial.

Harty says that the "Internet is just a numbers game." In doing an ad campaign, what an advertiser needs to take note of are the ad's frequency (how many times do people see the ad), its reach (how many actually see the ad) and the response it elicits (effect in the number of sales of the product or service advertised). Through online advertising and research, Harty says, making all these information available becomes easier.

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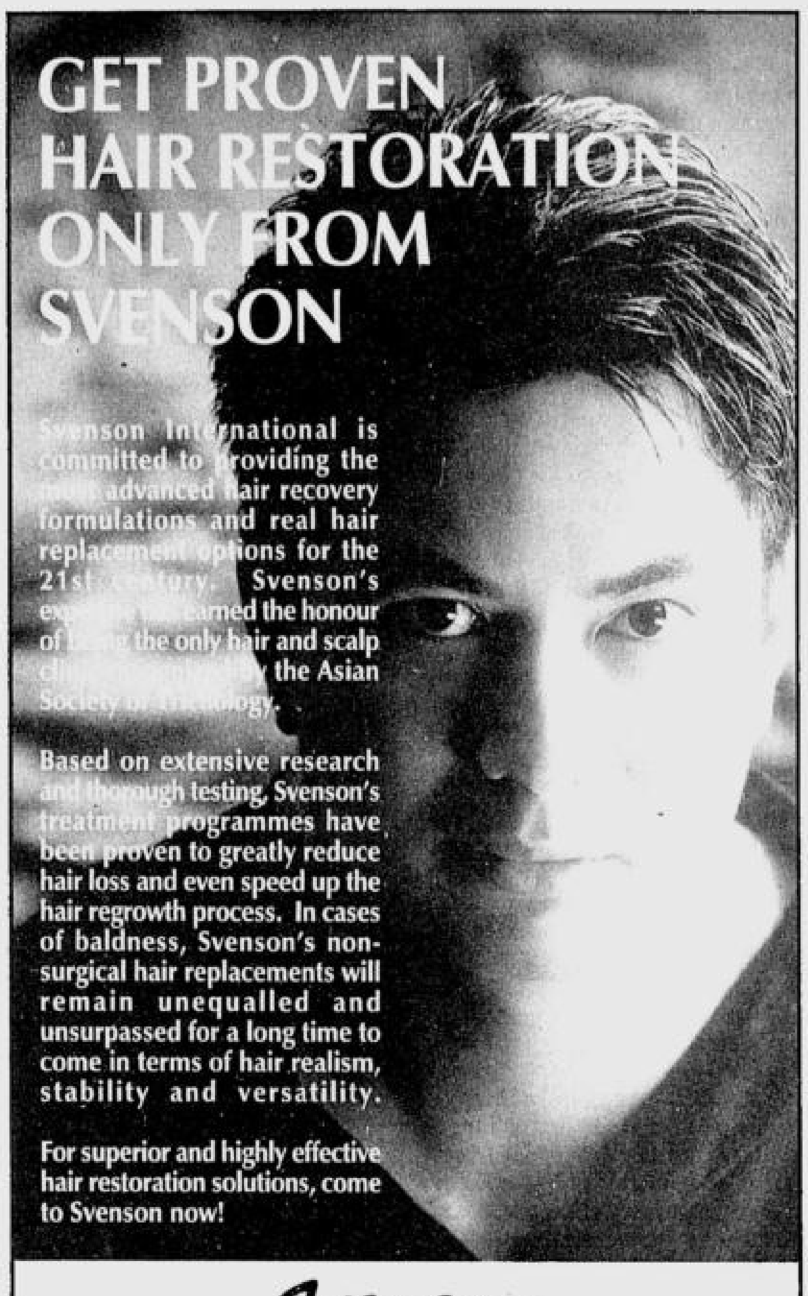

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Get a license to make a killing

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MARKETING STRATEGY

THE WALT Disney Co. has become a master not just in creating characters that make people, especially kids, happy, but in leasing out these creations to unknown brands and raking in profits in the process.

Just think about all the Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck items that were bought and sold over the past 50 years.

This process is called licensing—defined as the lease of a brand or trademark through third party companies over a fixed period. It has become one of the most contemporary forms of marketing and brand extension available to companies and organizations.

Malou Corpus, founder of brand management company Click!, says foreign companies with trademarks, brands and intellectual properties license their products to penetrate markets outside their home base.

Marketing tool

At the same time, Corpus says corporations and entrepreneurs are turning toward getting a license to use the trademarks of these known brands to get instant recall and rapport with the target audience.

Fastfood giant Jollibee, for instance, got contracts to use popular cartoon characters for their happy meals. Hapee toothpaste put Sesame Street characters on its kiddie toothpaste while milk product Enfagro use the Barney and Teletubbies characters on the cans and carton packages to attract the audience that relate well to these popular brands.

Real estate giant Shoemart, for instance, also uses cartoon characters or popular movie characters for their monthly promotions.

"Getting a license to use these trademarks allows these companies to extend the reach of their brand without compromising their product. With these brands on your own products, you attract new markets who relate to the brands," Corpus says.

Click! is the sole licensee for popular brands Sesame Street, Barney, Teletubbies, Miffy, South Park, Thomas the Tank Engine, Dragon Tales, Clifford, Little Lulu, Pat the Bunny and Blues Clues.

"It is easier for a company to get an established brand to put on their products instead of developing their own mascots or characters because there is a lot of history behind these brands and there is instant recall," Corpus says.

Local licensing

ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc., the licensing and merchandising arm of broadcasting giant ABS-CBN has also gone down the road of licensing to build a market around its popular movies and television shows.

ISLAND Souvenirs' Lyndon Angan

DINO Medina of ABS-CBN

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Dino S. Medina, licensing supervisor of ACPI, says the licensing of the brand and the trademarks allow ABS-CBN to nurture a stronger relationship with the audience and with manufacturers of products such as apparel and accessories as well as books and promotional items.

ABS-CBN started in 1995 with the licensing of Casper, Bananas in Pa, Digimon Adventure, Tommy & Oscar and Rugrats.

When it acquired enough knowledge about the licensing business from its foreign counterparts, it licensed its own programs such as G-mik, Tabing Ilog, Flames, The Buzz, Maalaala Mo Kaya as well as Star Cinema's Mula sa Puso, Esperanza and Anak.

Its latest project is the licensing merchandise in cooperation with Islands Souvenirs that is inspired by the movie "Trip," a Star Cinema offering revolving around youth adventures.

Islands Souvenirs' director for marketing Lyndon Angan says the company decided to license the Trip products from ABS-CBN as it jives with its own brand identity that caters to the young and talks about adventures.

"There is synergy because we have always wanted to extend our brand. With Trip, we feel that we are building brand equity," Angan says.

This is the first time that Islands Souvenirs' ventured into licensing, but Angan says the experiment has paid off as sales of trip items have been brisk since the first items hit Island Souvenirs' stores in July.

Click!'s Corpus also says that licensing provides a good earning opportunity for small entrepreneurs who manufacture generic bags, shirts or other products that cater to certain markets such as preschool kids, teens and adults.

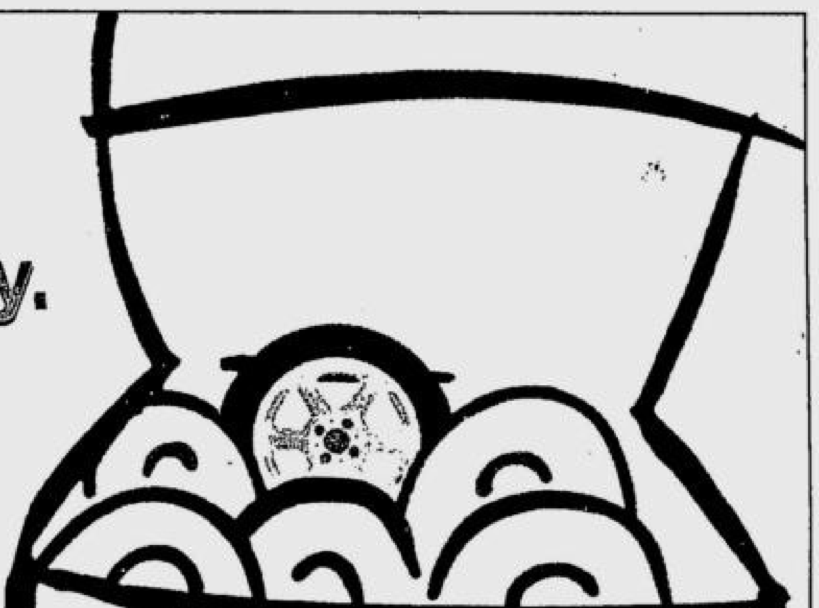
"By putting a trademark, they immediately get added value for their product instead of just selling a generic item," Corpus says.

Fixed contracts

ABS-CBN's Medina says licensing a product or property is covered by a fixed contract that states how long a manufacturer can continue using the trademark on their products. Some campaigns, he says, last for six months or a year, with an additional period for the company to sell off the products.

Corpus says the licensee has to pay royalties for the use of the trademark, which is based on the volume of the items.

"We at Click! opens licensing opportunities even to new or upstart companies as long as they comply with the licensing agreement," she says.



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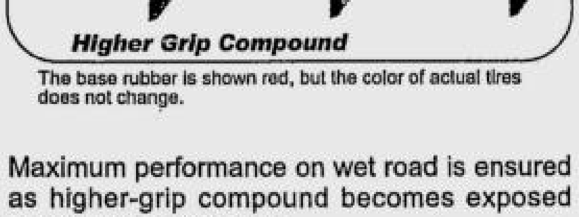

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Furniture that flows with the cosmos

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

SYMBOLIC of purity, completeness and wholesome family life, the lotus flower is the inspiration of the home of Ravi and Rashmi Singh.

The fruit of naturopath and yogacharya Ravi Singh's meditation is developing his talent in furniture design and manufacturing. In the '80s, he founded Lightworks, specialty furniture using the finest Philippine woods treated with utmost respect. Today it has evolved into a lifestyle atelier, which also makes candles and soft furnishing.

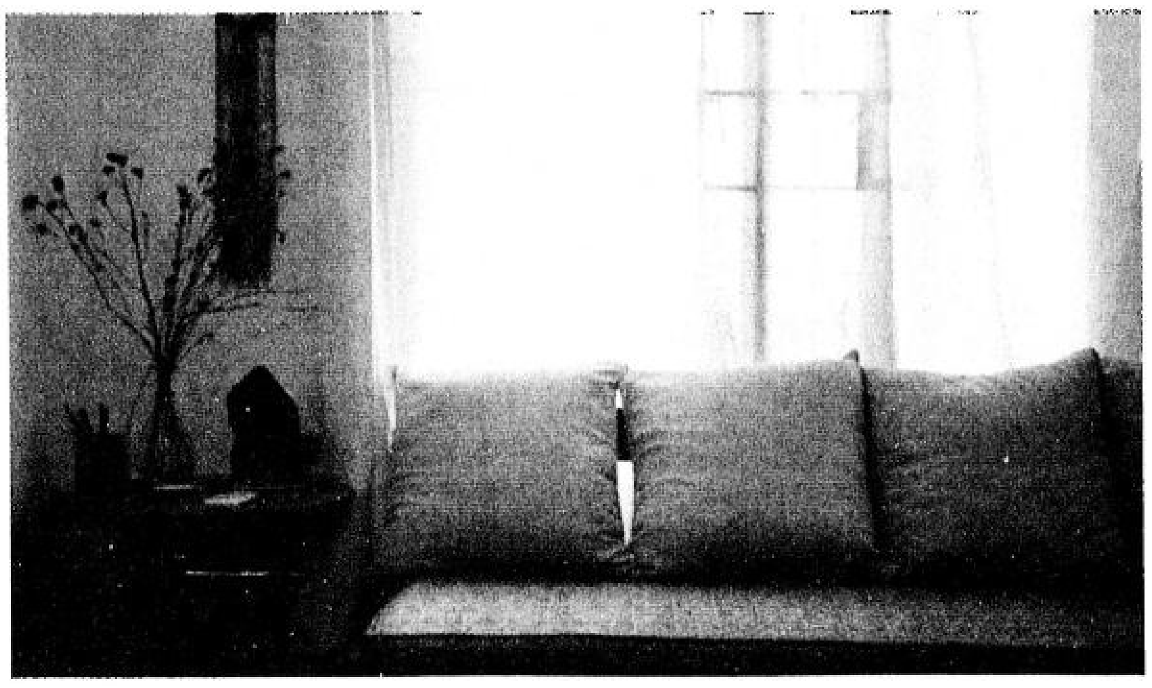
The Singhs' home in San Juan is a veritable showroom of his creativity. The prevalent theme is the flow of lines of the lotus petal that are seen in the curves and arms of the chairs and in the legs of the tables, with floral inlay made of narra's core.

"The basic idea is to show a transition between tension and flow of energy. Tension is not always bad. Proper tension is actually good. That is nature's plan. That is where beauty lies. Look at the sharp flow of line in the arm of the chair and how it immediately jumps up. Usually you find curves in nooks and corners in such a tense situation. They are very clean and fluid," explains Singh.

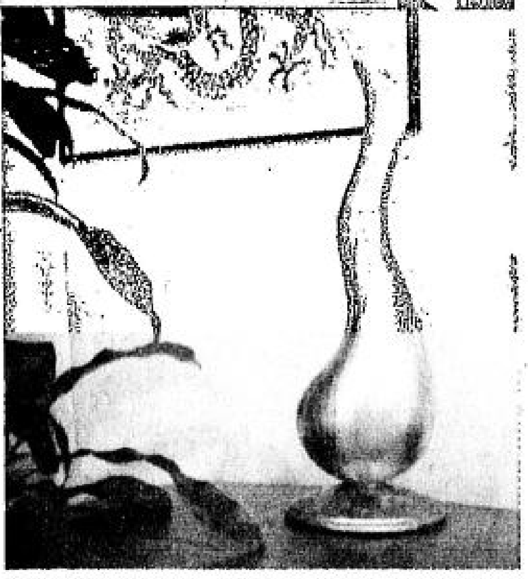
The arrangement of the furniture—from the sala set, side tables, buffet table, coffee table and organizer—spreads out like rays of the sun from living room all the way to the bedroom.

There are many pieces that are eye-catching. Among them

FURNITURE/p.C2



THE SOLID narra occasional table with hand-carved legs is topped with floral marquetry. Lightworks now produces soft furnishing such as the upholstery and pillowcases made of Indian silk on the narra sofa bed and the pineapple fiber curtains.



THE SWAN is a gold-leafed ceramic vase that follows the graceful neck of the royal bird.

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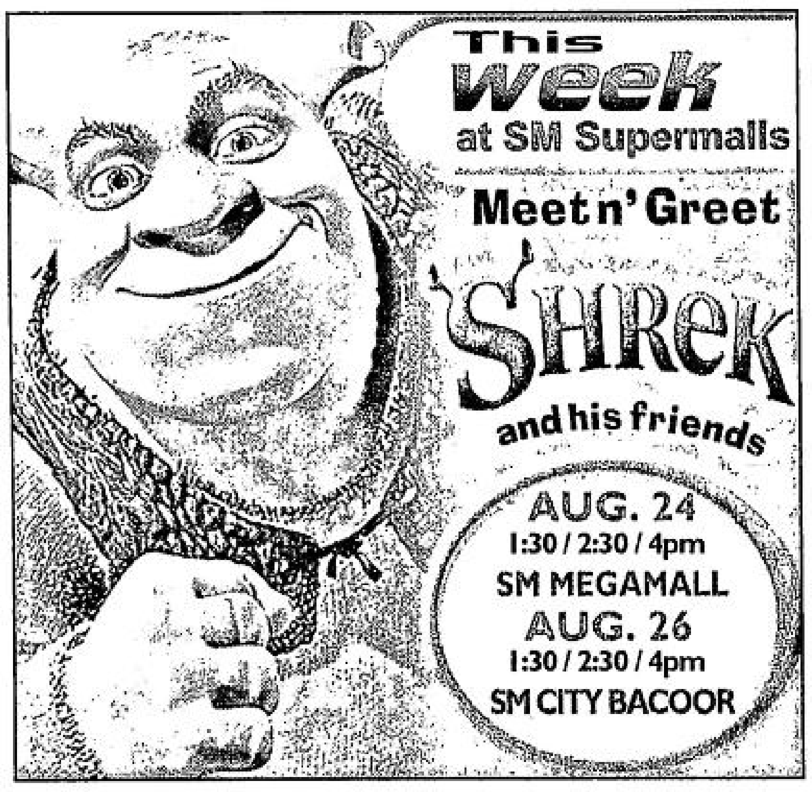

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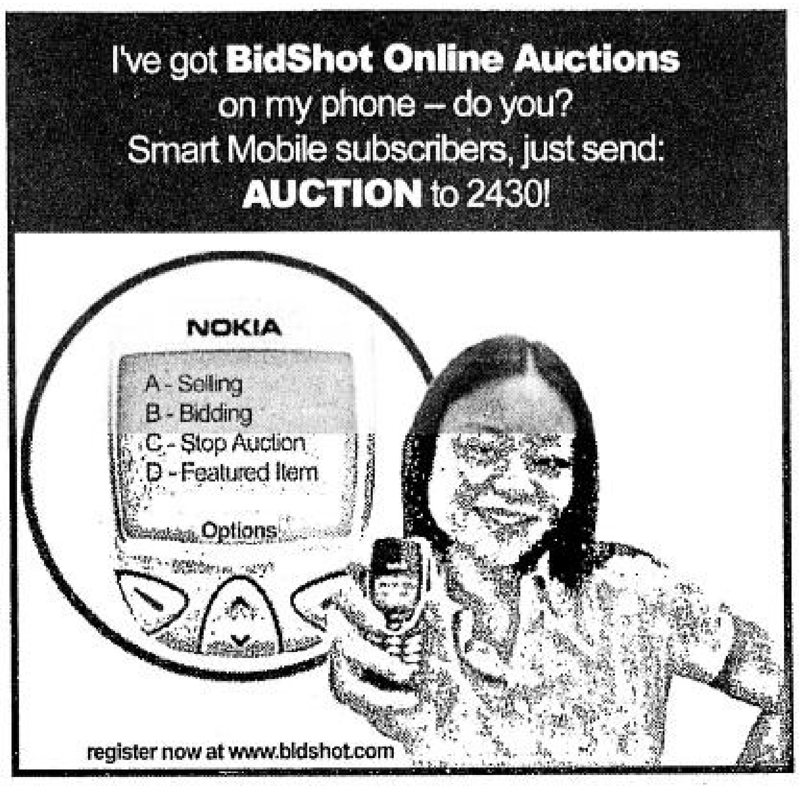

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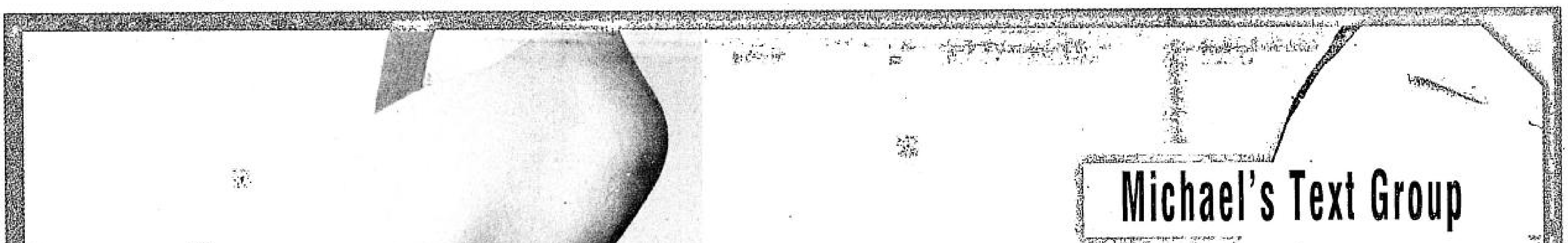

Michael's Text Group
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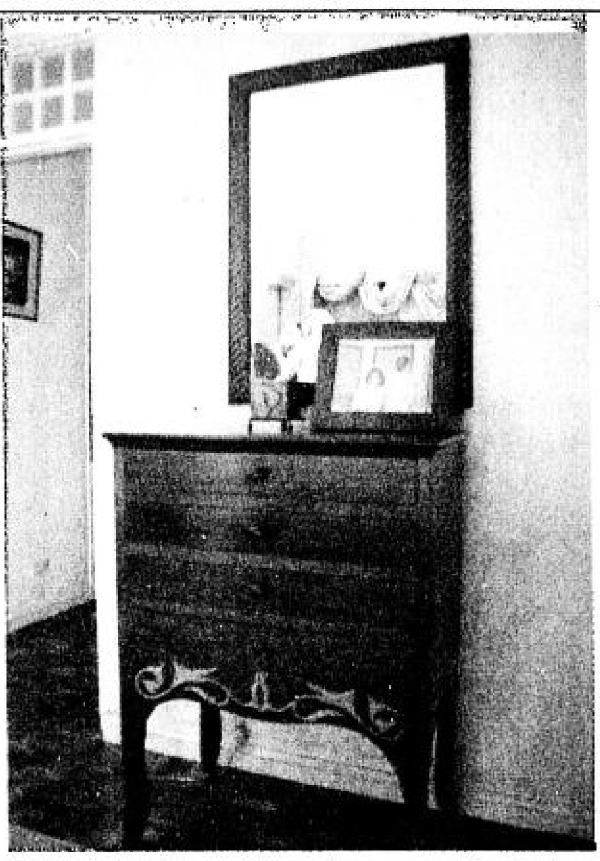
SILVER-LEAFED ceramic pumpkin atop the gold-leafed round tray with resin legs

NARRA veneer filing cabinet is noise-free. On display are a copper-leafed ceramic box cum candleholder and a gold-leafed vitrified hand-thrown jar.



THE GENTLEMAN'S organizer, made of red narra and *almasiga* insertia, in the master bedroom. Lightworks also does small items such as frames.

MORE artsy stuff by the Singhs such as the hand-carved ebony candleholder, the gold-leafed Temple Box and the Turning Pointe cutlery cabinet with seven drawers.

Furniture that flows with the cosmos

(From page C1)

is the combination of two coffee tables that manifest a contrast of solidity and delicacy in structure.

Ravi explains the process and philosophy of Lightworks. "That took us six months to make. It had to be cut from scratch. If we had to make another one today, it would take six months. Those pieces show the natural color of narra.

"Before we cut the timber, we clean and check it for coloring and then we select the parts. Narra's shades range from light brown or yellow brown to deep purple color. What Filipinos commonly use is the yellow-orange color. When I started making [furniture], I decided to leave nature the way it is."

Most of the Singhs' tables are made from huge slabs of narra. Ravi respects the organic shapes and does enough just to enhance the beauty of the wood.

A chair, which he calls Genesis, symbolizes the creative process. The backrest is shaped like a *garbanzo* bean that sprouts two-dimensional leaves. Or, it looks like a twisted stem that shoots up through the top and becomes a lotus bud.

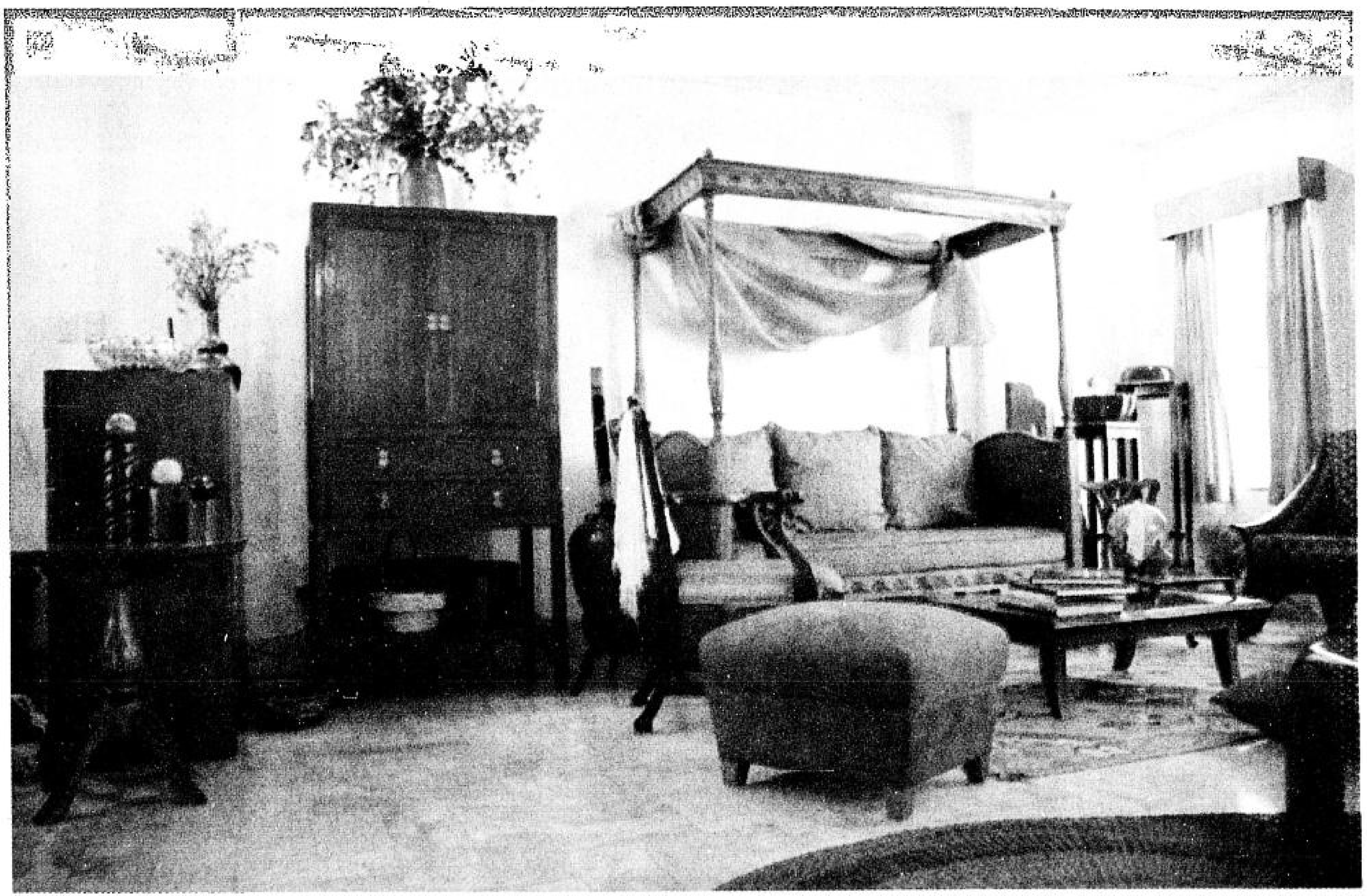
A sinewy chaise longue, called the Relax Chair, is designed for back comfort.

Ergonomically correct

"I designed it to create something ergonomically correct. You could let go. Most of the time, you're conditioned to be stiff and upright. All these expectations bring the burden of emotion on the physical body. I did that piece so that the lumbar area and the neck are well supported. The *solihiya* helps in the circulation of air," he says.

If you relax and read on the longue, you are well lit by a lamp whose shade resembles the opening of a floral bud. Ravi points out the continuous line from the shade to the base, which resembles a plant sprouting from the ground. He says it symbolizes growth or unfoldment.

In a corner of the living room is another island of furniture dominated by a four-poster narra bed originally made for a child. It functions as some sort of a daybed. Typical of Lightworks, no coloring is applied. Instead it highlights the inlays of red and yellow narra.



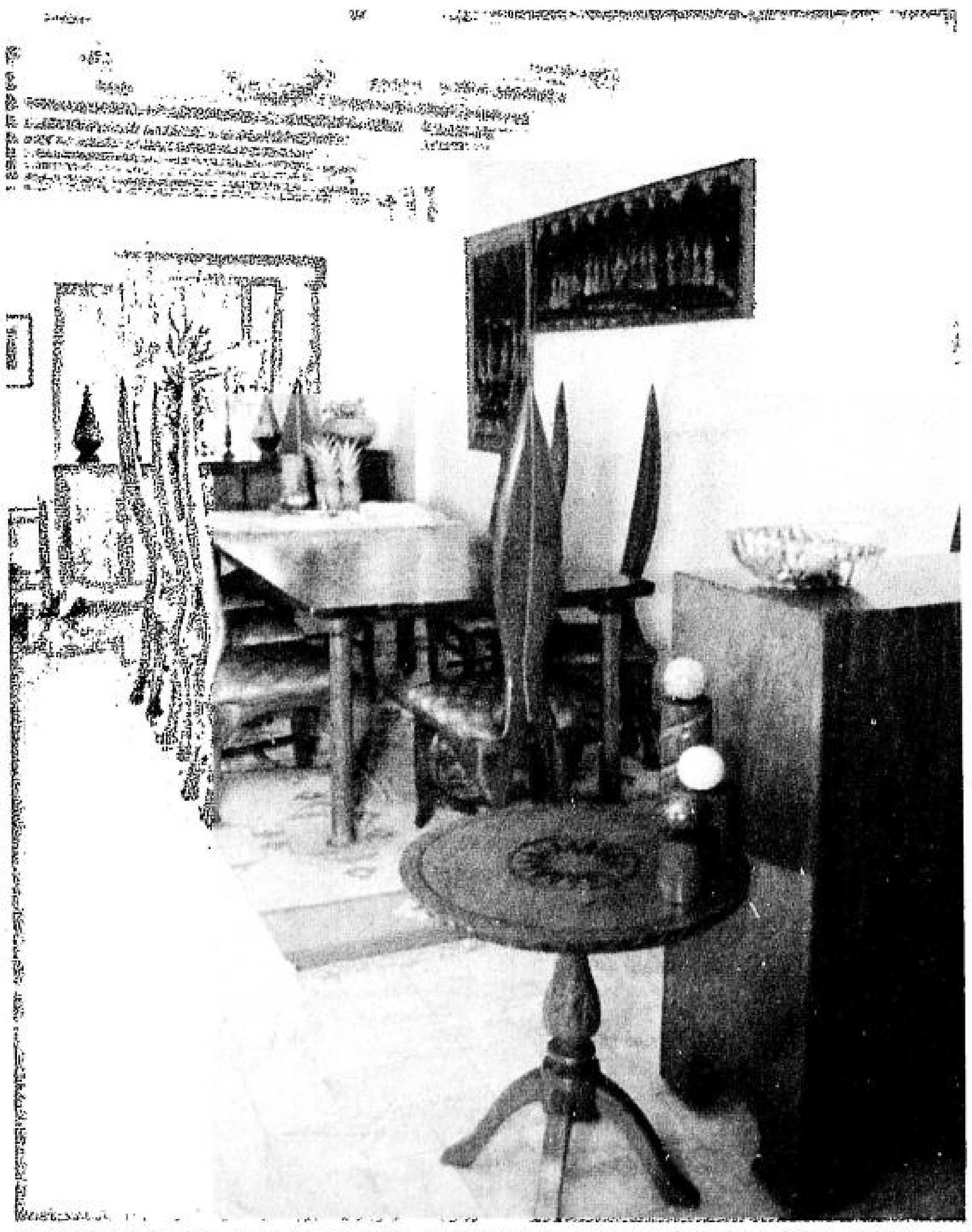
CASUAL corner features an occasional table of hand-carved solid narra with marquetry, a narra veneer entertainment cabinet, a Chippendale chair made of solid narra, beeswax polish finish, Indian silk, a solid narra *dulang* that doubles as a coffee table, a daybed with handwoven *piña* silk and Indian silk upholstery, solid *molave* and narra accessories, Chippendale child's chair and wooden pedestals of copper-leafed tops. The valance is made from verdigris copper leaf.

An important accessory in the living room is a verdigris copper disc that's a sculptural vase. "It's a circle with an off-center opening. The energy flow is better in a circle. I put a half moon as a base to create a floating effect. It gives you contrast of what nature has made in wood," he says.

In the dining area, the chairs carry a slim, elongated back, shaped like fine leaves. Ravi says without the leaf-shaped backs, the chairs are shaped like the Ifugao rice granary gods. The legs are small and compact.

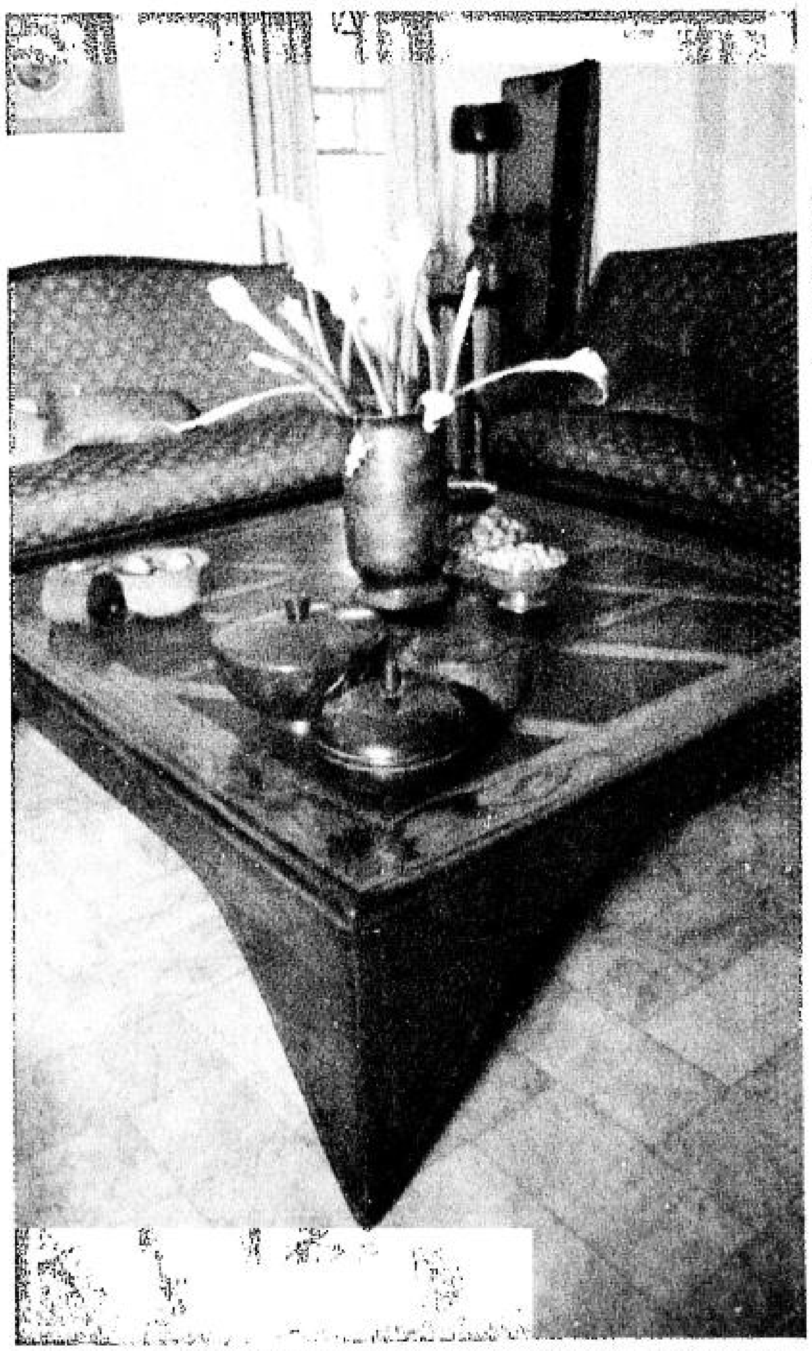
"This design shows elegance, finesse and delicacy of form. It is sturdy as a horse and is ergonomically correct. It's the perfect sculptural

FURNITURE/p.C3

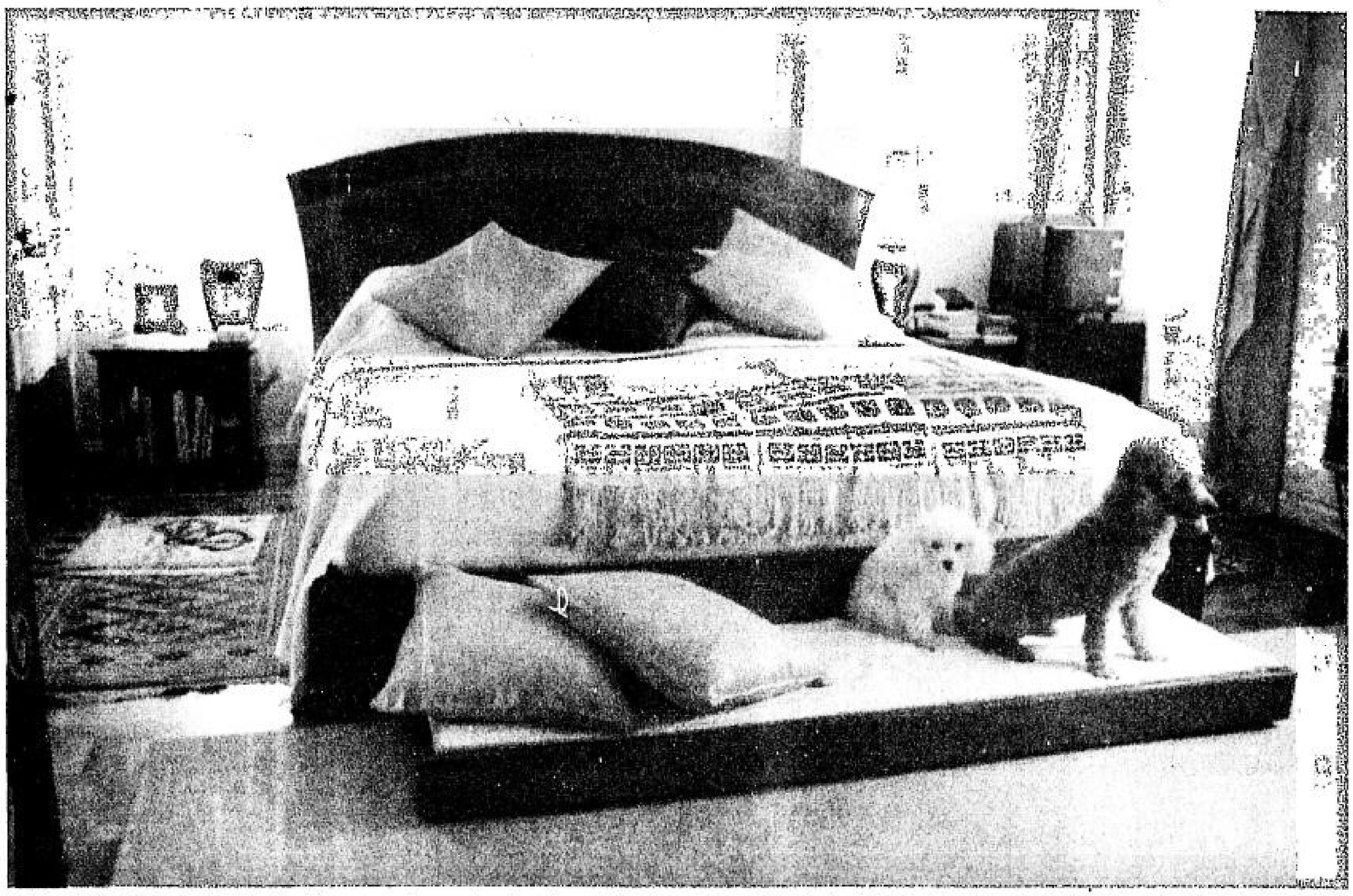


THE BUFFET table is made of narra. Beside it is a yellow narra table with red narra star marquetry on top. The chairs are called Namaste, an Indian greeting. They are made of red narra with *almasiga* insertia and Indian silk upholstery. The dining table, Vinta, is collapsible. The abstract floral designs are made of narra insertia.

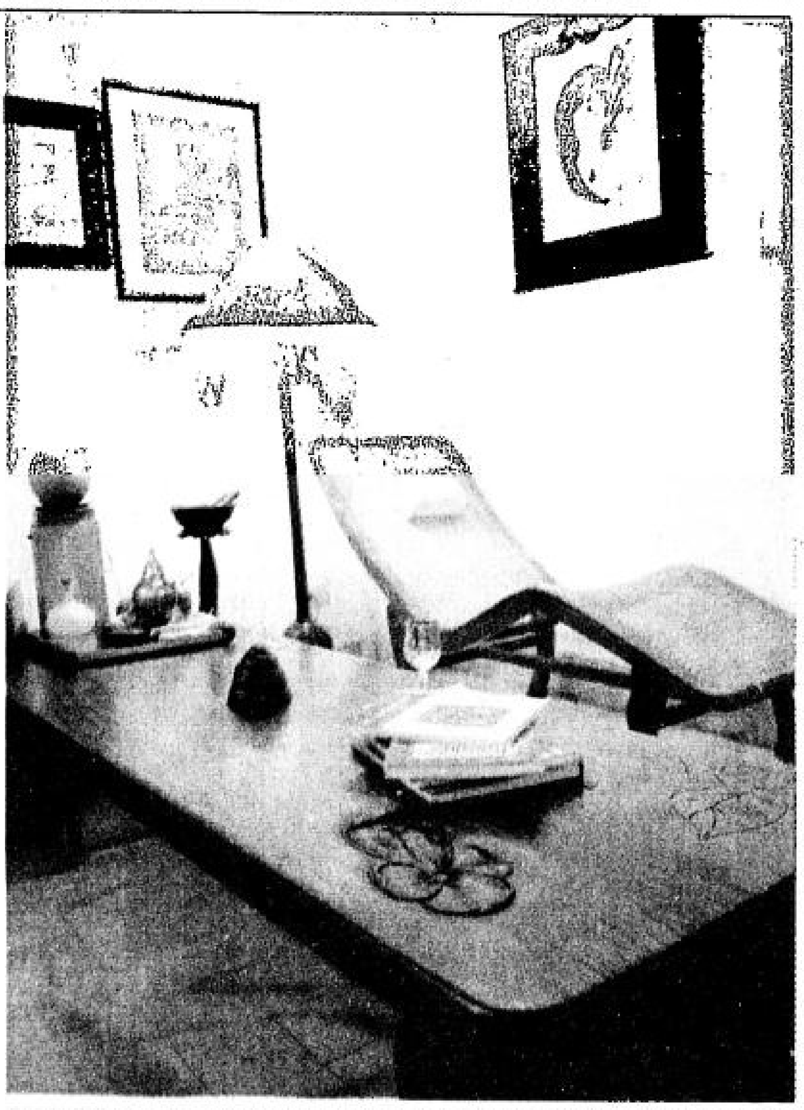
IN THE STUDY room, the desk is made of narra with marquetry and handcarving with a repro of a Hepplewhite narra chair with Indian silk upholstery. Adorning the table is a lamp base.



SEVEN Rays living room set is made of narra furniture with beeswax polish. The coffee table, made of narra with marquetry and framed with narra core, is adorned with hand-hewn solid narra and burl boxes with beeswax polish and a copper-leafed glass vase. The narra sofa with marquetry is covered with Indian silk.



THE SINGHS' red narra bed with marquetry on the headboard has a pull-out doggie bed for Dharma and Bodhi. The room is accessorized with copper and gold-leafed hand-thrown ceramic lamp bases. For safekeeping, a solid narra box has inner drawers with hand-cut brass findings and a handle.



GENESIS is the name of this handcarved solid narra table with legs that don't match. On display are Lightworks products such as the gold-leafed tray with black handles, ceramic candleholder and gold-leafed ceramic box called Aladdin. The oil-polished Relax chaise longue is made of handwoven *solihiya*. The Bulb is a handcarved Philippine mahogany floor lamp.

Furniture that flows with the cosmos

(From page C2)

furniture," he says.

The master bedroom is divided into small islands of furniture for various functions such as writing, meditating and exercise. The red narra chairs and table maintain the lotus theme with its curvaceous lines and floral inlay.

The Singhs reveal the love for their dogs, Bodhi and Dharma, by building additional drawers in their bed.

"When I was making this bed, I wanted to have their own bed and have access to their beds. They can sleep and climb over here," he says.

Wooden filing cabinet

The Singhs take their work at home. But instead of keeping things in a metal filing cabinet, Ravi made a wooden version that's quiet and elegant. "The more load you put in it, the smoother it works. It is noise-free, smooth, functions well and fits into furniture," says Ravi.

"My medium has been narra. It's the peacock of timber. The Philippines has a beautiful range of timbers. Now I work with Philippine mahogany, *tanguile*, *lawaan*. When we finish the woods, the way we are known for, nobody can tell the difference between local mahogany and narra," he says.

The house showcases other Lightworks products such as soft furnishing made from *piña seda*, *abaca seda* that are made into shades, curtains, pillowcases and drapes. Lightworks recently started its line of ceramics. Being a naturopath, Ravi understands the healing power of clay. The rooms are charged with various crystals for energy.

"I like to work with nature and keep the lines as clean and natural as possible. Nature's produce has produced things that are so harmonious. There's much to touch there," says Singh.

At the Singhs, furniture is organic and made to harmonize with the universe

RASHMI with Dharma and Ravi with Bodhi, vegetarian poodles who love fruits. The room is furnished with Lightworks' *piña*-silk curtains, painted ceramic vases and a faux tortoise shell waste bin.

Bill's Text Group
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FEU debaters beat Singaporeans, Malaysians, Australians

THE FEU Oratory and Debating Team in Singapore: (from left) Annabelle Kibanoff, Joeven Castro, FEU Institute of Arts and Sciences assistant dean Zenaida Martinez and Ryan Buenafe

THE FAR Eastern University Oratorical and Debate Council won over the University of Technology-Sidney (UTS), Nanyang Technology University (NTU), and International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIU) in the 27th Australian Inter-varsity Debating Championship held in NTU, Singapore recently.

In the debate on whether or not to close all zoos, FEU opposed UTS' suggestion to set up biospheres instead saying the proposal was impractical and expensive. Against IIU, FEU opposed unrestrained press freedom, ironically citing Malaysia, which imposed limits on media practice.

GOINGS-ON

HOMECOMING. Alumni of the Notre Dame of Manila will hold a general homecoming at 8 a.m. on Sept. 9 at the Notre Dame grounds in Caloocan City. Call 366-6334 local 110 or 361-1672.

WORKSHOP. Mary Lim Pearce will hold a workshop on vibrant health tomorrow and on Sept. 1, at the Center for Health and Creative Arts, 59 C. Salvador St., PhilDHRRA Compound, Loyola Heights, QC. Call 434-5381.

FIESTA CELEBRATION. The Maasinhon ng Metro Manila will hold its 47th annual fiesta celebration tomorrow at the Grand Ballroom, Jade Valley Restaurant, Timog Avenue, QC. A concelebrated Mass will be held at 5 p.m. A raffle and ballroom dancing will complete the celebration. Call 725-3632.

STORE OPENING. Abenson continues to spread the Good Life with the recent opening of its 41st branch at the Ever Gotesco Commonwealth Center. Customers can expect a year-round treat with great discounts, cool premiums and raffle promos. Meanwhile, by simply visiting any Abenson store, people can win in the raffle "Visit & Win." The Ever Gotesco branch is on Don Mariano Avenue corner Don Antonio Road, QC.

COMPETITION. Mandarin Oriental Manila is holding the "Design a Filipino Fan" competition on Sept. 7. The contest is open to all art enthusiasts, graphic designers, interior and fashion designers. Entry forms are available at the concierge desk and at the public relations office. Prize is a trip for two to Hong Kong, including a two-night accommodation at the Mandarin Oriental. Call 750-8888.

SEMINAR. The St. Luke's Medical Center's Department of Medicine-Section of Dermatology offers a free seminar on the different uses of the Intense Pulse Light (IPL) on the skin, 6-8 p.m. today at the auditorium, 14/F St. Luke's Cathedral Heights Building Complex, QC. IPL is a cosmetic procedure commonly used for resurfacing and rejuvenating the skin. Call 723-0301 local 6428.

RELAUNCHING. Anvil Publishing Inc. will relaunch the best-selling "Hot Money, Warm Bodies" by journalists Ellen Tordesillas and Greg Hutchinson, 5:30 p.m. tomorrow at the National Bookstore in Davao City. Call (082) 266-4352 to -54.

BOOK SALE. Powerbooks Specialty Store holds its annual "Power Sale" until Sept. 16, at its Arnaiz, Megamall and Alabang branches. Look for colored stickers—blue, pink, green orange and yellow—to get discounts of up to 50 percent.

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CAROLINE de Leon Atanacio (center), youngest daughter of Fred Atanacio and the former Cora de Leon of New York City, graduated magna cum laude from Fordham University, Lincoln Center, New York City on May 19. A consistent academic scholar throughout her college years, Caroline earned a BA in History. She also received an honorable mention in history. While still a student, she was an intern in one of Manhattan's most prestigious hotels. She is currently pursuing her master's at Fordham University's Graduate School of Education, on a scholarship for opportunity and excellence. She is flanked by her parents and sisters Cristina Balingit and Cecilia Vigilia.

Books without stickers are discounted up to 20 percent. Every P2,500 purchase gets you a Powerbooks Carry-All Case. Call 844-4455.

STUDY VISIT. The Board of Trustees of the Philippine Librarians Association Inc., with the National Library Board of Singapore and the National Library of Malaysia, presents "Study Visit to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur," Sept. 8-15. Call 527-9071 to -73 local 44, 899-4343, 735-6011, 526-8295, 716-0106 or 524-9740.

FIESTA CELEBRATION. Catbaloganons of Samar, who reside in Metro Manila, will celebrate their 84th fiesta with a formal dinner-dance at the Edsa Shangri-La on Aug. 31, and family socials at the Valle Verde Country Club on Sept. 2. The events will honor their patron saint, Bartholomew the Apostle.

SPECIAL TREAT. Yves Saint Laurent lays the emphasis on eye makeup this season. YSL makeup products are available at the YSL Beaute counters, which also offer a complimentary makeover by Emphasis Salon. Call 890-9703, local 230 or 899-6938 or visit the YSL Beaute counter at Rustan's Makati, Aug. 25-26, Sept. 15-16; and Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza, Sept. 1-2.

ACTIVITY. E. Excel International Phils. Inc. will hold a family fun day activity on Sept. 9, at the NBC Tent, The Fort, Makati City. The event will feature a mini-Olympics, parlor games, among others.

GOLDEN JUBILEE. Class 1951 of the Binalonan High School in Binalonan, Pangasinan will celebrate it golden jubilee tomorrow at the Binalonan High School Campus. Call (075) 562-2233, (075) 562-2120 or (914) 725-3832.

Umpil holds nat'l congress, hands out Gawad Balagtas

UMPIL (Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas) or the Writers Union of the Philippines holds its 27th National Congress on Aug. 25 at the Goethe Institut on Aurora Boulevard, QC.

This year's Congress theme is "Literature and Globalization," with Trade Secretary Mar Roxas as guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Registration starts at 1 p.m., after which Umpil chair Mike Bigornia opens the congress with his valedictory address. A new set of board members and officers will then be elected.

At 3 p.m., the Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas will be given to six recipients: Melchor Cichon for poetry in Aklanon, Simeon Dumdum Jr. for poetry in English, Reynaldo A. Duque for fiction in Ilocano, Ave Perez Jacob for fiction in Filipino, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo for fiction in English and Ambeth Ocampo for the historical essay in English.

A special Gawad Manlilikha will be presented to Manny Baldemor as a tribute to his art and in appreciation for his unstinting support of Umpil's activities through the years, while the Gawad Pedro Bukaneg for Outstanding Literary Organization will be given to the Philippine Literary Arts Council or PLAC, which is commemorating its 20th anniversary this year.

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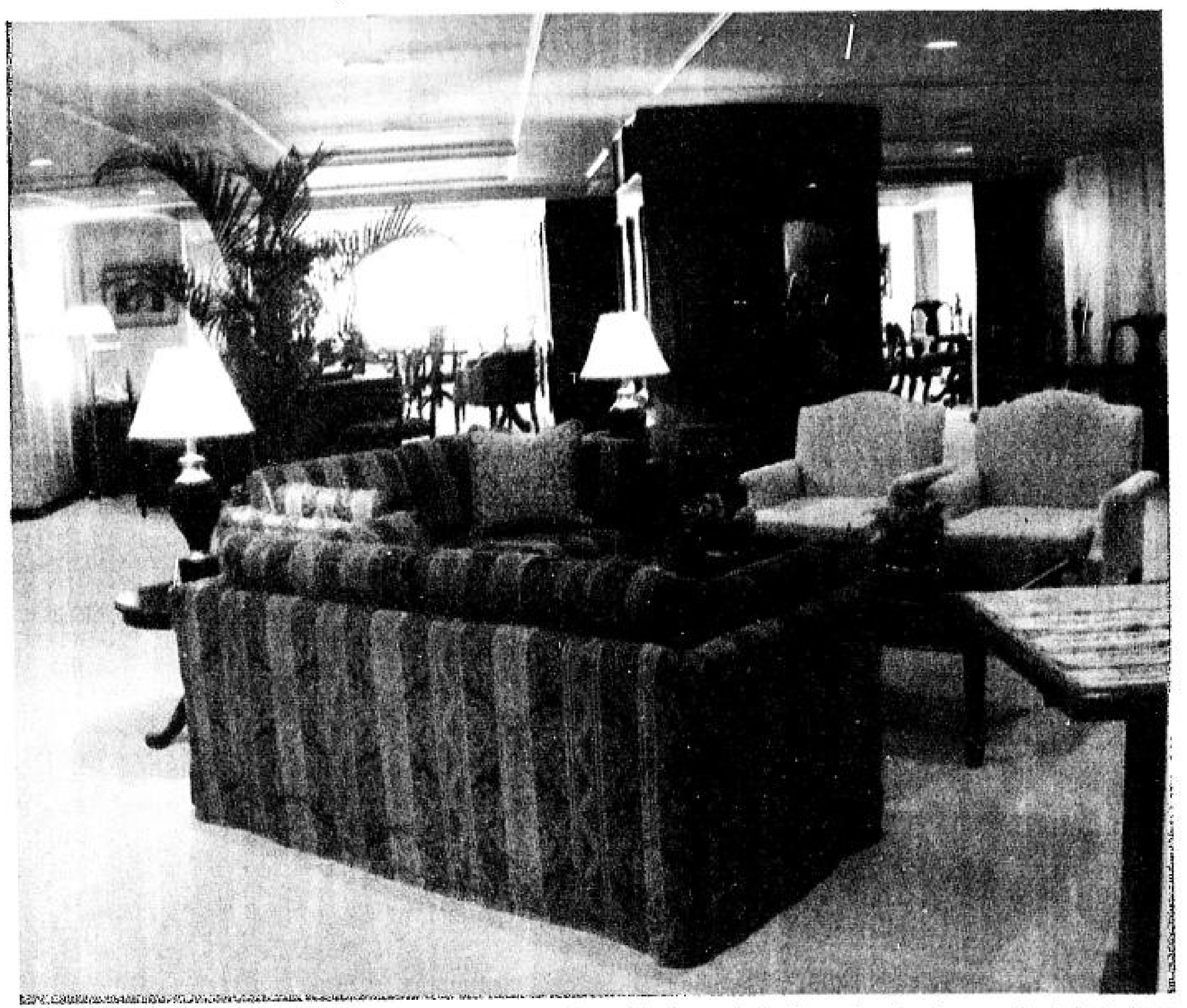


THE MODERN but conservative image of the hotel is reflected in the muted colors, classic pieces and subdued down lighting. The interesting features of the lounge include cabinet displays that are incorporated into the columns and a giant backgammon pattern on the wood veneer wall.

THE SOFT flow of the lamps, the curvilinear furniture and the soft upholstery evoke a feeling of relaxation and comfort to the tired businessman.

THE HIGH-TECH amenities are balanced by soft furnishing. The curved curtain valance is out of the ordinary.

Businessman's citadel of quiet

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

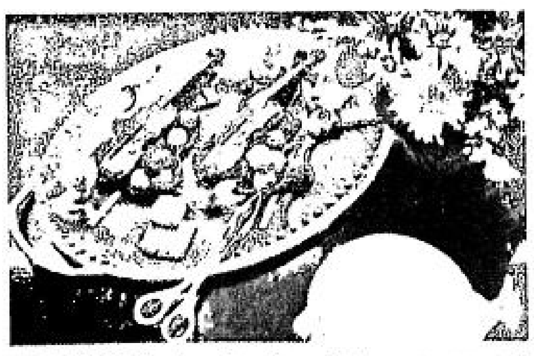
IF a tired businessman comes across a quiet place, he must be grateful for finding what has become a rare commodity in this hectic world—peace of mind.

Most hotels have special floors just for the businessman. The interior design is characterized by soft lighting, the colors are neutral and therefore non-invasive, and the appointments are extremely comfortable. The rooms are equipped with all the software and butler service.

The Peninsula Manila is the last hotel in the Makati Central Business district to rev up its executive club floor. It's worth the wait. The 255-sq m Peninsula Business Club houses 24 guestrooms and suites. There's a choice of complimentary breakfast at the lounge or gourmet breakfast at Old Manila.

It offers a changing complimentary afternoon tea and cocktails served at the lounge. There's a wide choice of Asian dishes such as of sushi, tepanyaki, Japanese pork dumplings and tonkatsu or Indian tandoor chicken, chicken *samosa*, vegetable *pakora*, minced lamb kebab or Chinese quail eggs, honey-roasted pork and spring rolls. There's also a range of Italian dishes such as bresaola with Italian chipped parmesan, vegetable and ricotta lasagna and panzerotti or French dishes such as smoked duck and green bean roulade, scallop ceviche, croque monsieur, duck confit and Western carpaccio and confit of chicken wings.

The best part is the famous bezel-nut paste chocolates served all day.



FAMOUS Peninsula chocolates are served all day at the lounge.

IT feels like home with artworks in the suite. An interesting feature is the gold-leaf mirror frame in the beveled recession on the wall.

President Bush gets environmental advice

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

First of two parts

IN THE SAME way that Filipinos expressed their disappointment over the omission of environmental guidelines in President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address last June (see this column last week), Americans are also showing concern about President George W. Bush's green agenda, or lack of it.

In a forum-style feature in Audubon magazine's March-April issue, 15 environmentalists and scientists were asked what they thought President Bush should do about the environmental issues affecting Americans and the world. The specialists gave their replies according to their areas of expertise, such as clean air, solar energy, global warming, climate change, protection of forests and wildlife and use of natural resources, to name the major issues.

We feature 10 of the 15 environmental specialists because their advice applies to the problems and situations in this country. We quote the first five in this installment, and the rest will follow next week. In several cases, the replies have been excerpted.

Martha Marks, president of Republicans for Environmental Protection, on fossil fuel: "President Bush must lead America away from fossil fuel to a bright future built upon renewable, clean energy. As long as we insist on drilling, digging and burning fossil fuel, the American people will always be fighting a rearguard defense of our air and water; the global climate, and our national parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, coastlines and other beloved places. The technology and economics are right for this transformation today. Only the political barriers remain to be cleared away. This is where presidential leadership can make a difference."

Ralph Nader, consumer advocate and Green Party presidential candidate, on solar energy: "The single most consequential mission that President Bush can undertake is to lead the world in solar energy research and use. Solar energy forms have been around for thousands of years. East Africans, Persians and Greeks used passive solar architecture. Photovoltaic cells and solar thermal systems are now spreading in Asia, Africa and South America. Solar energy can eventually replace nuclear power, coal, oil and gas. It will reduce the risk of geopolitical struggles and diminish global warming, ozone depletion, air and water pollution, and dependence on distant supplies controlled by cartels and conglomerates.

"The main obstacle to achieving a solar world is opposition by the fossil fuel and atomic energy interests. They lobby Washington for subsidies, which create an uneven energy playing field. In this time of growing energy crises, Bush could confound his critics by launching a solar mission."

Edward O. Wilson, biologist, author, conservationist and professor of entomology at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, on Global Conservation: "[President Bush should] take the moral high ground. The world's natural economy is crumbling, imperiling the market economy. The United States can and should show the way in the global conservation movement. Start with the world's forests. They are disappearing fast, at severe environmental and social cost. We need an international summit on forests, aimed at a protocol that matches the caliber of those on ozone depletion and climate change."

Michael Soule, science director of the Wildlands Project and cofounder of the Society for Consecration Biology, on more conservation: "You should follow the example of Noah, the most righteous of men. God had decided to drown all of humanity because humans were wicked and depraved. Interestingly, though, He wanted to save the rest of creation, and He chose Noah as His agent. When the deluge receded, He made a covenant with Noah with all the creatures in the ark that He would never again cause a mass extinction. But now another great extinction is happening because human beings are stripping the earth's forests, diverting its waters, and depleting its soils and oceans to feed our mushrooming numbers and satisfy our unquenchable hunger for energy, goods and comfort.

"As the most powerful leader in the world, Mr. Bush, you must consider whether this nation should continue to spurn God's first covenant with all life on earth. You have a chance to save nature again by calling for restraint on natural resource exploitation and by supporting the conservation of God's capital."

James Hansen, climatologist, chief of Nasa's Goddard institute for Space Studies, and winner of the 2000 Heinz Award for the Environment, on global warming: "Global warming is real, and humans have a hand in it. You should appoint a commission of scientists, business people, consumers and environmentalists to recommend actions to fight climate change. We can take common sense, economically sound steps now to slow this planetary experiment. That will give us time to improve scientific understanding and define later policies.

"Our industry and technology hold the key to solving the climate problem. We must aggressively reduce air pollution, improve energy efficiency, and develop clean, renewable energy sources. The collateral benefits alone—improved public health and reduced dependence on foreign energy sources—justify the cost. This practical approach could create bipartisan and international consensus for addressing climate change.

Next week: Advice on bird conservation, protection of the oceans, etc.

Time to move on

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

It's not just the loss of cars and cell phones that we have to worry about. The loss of a loved one seems to be quite a problem, too, these days. I'm not really a writer but I feel I have to express my thoughts again. I agree with what you said to Richard whose girlfriend could not wait for the annulment of his marriage to be finalized and has broken his heart.

He should look forward to a better life, setting aside what caused him pain.

Richard said that she was the love of his life. I want to ask him, "After she betrayed you, how can you still consider her the love of your life? It's clear that you have not yet fully recovered from your past relationship since you are still waiting for the court decision on your annulment case.

"There's a saying, *ang isang pagkakamali ay hindi kayang ituwid ng isa pang pagkakamali*. I'm sure that your girlfriend is aware of your past. If she is really a deserving person and if she loves you, she must be considerate, give you the strength to move on, and guide you. But what did she do? She gave you another heartache. How can she be the love of your life? Give yourself a break. Do some soul-searching and try not to be wrong again, not to give your heart to an unfeeling woman."

Tita, love has to be unselfish and thoughtful. When a girlfriend flirts with others, then she should be erased from a man's mind... and heart.

Richard has a hard time mending his broken heart, but you will surely agree that there are also many young ladies (and wives) who are suffering from broken hearts. What is your comment on this?

MISTY

It is true,. not only that there are more women than men in our population, but also even those with boyfriends and husbands undergo mental pain, which is even worse than just a broken heart.

One way for a wife to avoid heartache is to be always nice to come home to. Of course, if she also has to keep regular office hours, she can just make sure that when her husband is around, everything is peaceful and serene, and their Sundays together are fun. (But this answer to your question is just a generalized comment).

Looking for a school for autistic children

May I ask if you know of any special schools for autistic children in Quezon City. My nephew, who is 4 years old, is autistic. I'm trying to help his parents look for a school that is affordable and gives quality education.

JEZIE

I'm sorry, I don't have a ready answer for your problem, but I hope some readers would know.

If a reader has an answer, Jezie can be contacted at e-mail hcelcbe@yahoo.com. Those without e-mail can write to this column.

E-mail the author at titadulce@net scape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

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Have you ever been called one of these hurtful taunts? Leave it to the Pinoy to come up with funny jeers. These nicknames, though often said in jest, are anything but funny. Losing one's hair is never funny.

If you're 25 and up, male, exposed to stress, harsh chemicals and unbalanced diet, you are bound to lose hair. Anyone of these can trigger falling hair, which if not immediately arrested, can lead to irreversible baldness. Many so-called remedies have come out in the market claiming wonders and magic to bring back your hair. Unfortunately, most of them just don't work. Some can even cause harmful side effects.

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An urban gardener's dream come true

By Tita V. Giron

JUDGING by the number of cars parked outside a small neighborhood shop on Heroes Hill, QC, more and more urban gardeners are discovering Ramgo's Garden & Farm Store.

The one-of-a-kind gardener's store specializes in tools and supplies for urban gardening, offering an assortment of hard-to-find products.

Urban residents who believe they have a green thumb have often been frustrated by the lack of merchandise to sustain their hobby. Most seeds in the market, for instance, don't survive. And their search for certain brands of plant food, chemicals and tools often ends in disappointment. We know this from personal experience after a fruitless search for a hydroponics kit for growing vegetables.

Our search is finally over. We found a hydroponics kit for growing vegetables at Ramgo's.

By way of product quality assurance, the shop has a vegetable demonstration garden behind the selling area with seedlings at various stages of growth to prove that Ramgo seeds germinate in the city. Two portable trays of healthy Chinese *kangkong* are also prominently displayed.

Other exciting finds inside the air-conditioned shop include sets of knockdown picket fence, seed sprout trays, portable seedling trays, window plant boxes, garden lights, hedge borders, water misers, gloves, pesticide masks, plant care kit and various garden tools.

The store carries different kinds of scissors, sprayers, watering cans, plant tags, time-release fertilizer, colorful planters and topiary frames, many of them imported.

ASSORTED products to make urban gardening enjoyable

We found imported peat moss, pine bark, mulch and soil-less potting medium without the usual worms and bugs found in commercial garden soil.

Unlike other garden stores in town, Ramgo's does not sell potted ornamental plants but carries certified seeds of vegetables, herbs and garden plants.

The store was opened by the late Ramon Ong in 1966 to sell seeds. Over the years, it built a good reputation for distributing certified vegetable seeds imported from the United States, Taiwan, Australia and The Netherlands. Some of the top sellers for home gardens are tomatoes, *ampalaya*, *sitaw* and sweet corn. Before he died, Ong planned to open a store that would cater to the needs of urban vegetable gardeners.

Two years ago, his daughters Karen, Candice and Pamela decided to pursue their father's plans and they opened Ramgo's Garden & Farm Store.

"This was my father's dream after he saw this kind of store right in the heart of Tokyo. He wanted Filipinos in the city to have a store where they can buy gardening materials," Candice recalled. Seeds remain the mainstays of the store, which recently expanded its list of culinary herbs to 32 varieties.

CERTIFIED seeds are guaranteed to survive city environment.

PHOTOS: MIKE ALQUINTO

CHINESE *kangkong* on portable planter is ideal for window or balcony.

Aside from urban gardeners, Candice said their other customers are weekend farmers who regularly buy seeds, sowing trays and fertilizers.

Candice handles the needs of customers while Pamela is in charge of dealers in the agriculture industry. Karen is in the paper business. Two agriculture technicians advise customers and answer questions.

Ramgo's also sells seeds for fresh sprout salads. It supplies alfalfa, radish and watercress to Japanese restaurants and health-food customers.

Call Candice Chan at 371-3463 or e-mail rampo @pworld.net.ph

Orchid show set on Aug. 31

THE PHILIPPINE Orchid Society will hold its 55th midyear orchid exhibit from Aug. 31 to Sept. 9 at the Quezon City Memorial Circle's *halamanan* section near the Commonwealth entrance. Rex Puentespina, chair of the show, says the exhibit's theme is "saving the orchid species for a better environment." The show will also promote orchid growing as an enjoyable and profitable hobby.

Since August and September are the months when world-famous Philippine species *ewanthe sanderiana* (*waling-waling*) from Davao is at its blooming peak, it is the exhibit's highlight and one of the categories for the competition.

The society will give big cash prizes to the best booth exhibit and best plant in the show. Trophies will also be awarded in other categories. A big commercial exhibit will be participated in by well-known orchid lovers, plant growers, nurseries, pesticide and fertilizer companies from all over the Philippines and abroad. There will be lectures and demonstrations on the two weekends and Thursdays of the show's duration. Interesting topics on orchid culture and flower arrangements will be discussed by experts.

A minimal entrance fee of P30 (adults) and P20 (students, children and senior citizens) is required. A special discount will be given to student groups, and guided-educational tours can be availed by schools for their students to visit for free. The commercial section will give away raffle prizes, plant clinics and big discounts on items sold like orchids, ornamental plants, pots, planting media, garden tools, chemicals and books. Fruits and vegetables will also be available every day.

The commercial section of the midyear orchid show will be open on Aug. 26. The commercial section entrance is free of charge.

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LIFESTYLE

CRIME FIGHTERS. PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza, Secretary Joey Lina, Jose Pardo and Manny Pangilinan

Manny Pangilinan joins Lina in crime fight

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WE had lunch this week with four disparate newsmakers who came together believing they must and can fight crime—Local Government Secretary **Joey Lina**, mega-businessman **Manny Pangilinan**, PNP chief **Leandro Mendoza** and former Trade Secretary **Jose T. Pardo**.

The four want to accelerate the Metro Manila use of Call 117 crime-watch line, and Lina is determined to make crime-fighting his top agenda at DILG.

For his part, Pangilinan is volunteering the infrastructure of his telecom giant PLDT. Pardo is there in his capacity as chair of the Foundation for Crime Prevention, an NGO working with government and the private sector (including banks) in helping organize citizens in monitoring crime incidence down to the barangay level.

What we didn't know until that lunch was that people actually call 117—both legit and pranksters. Many, just curious, try out the numbers. Un-

MANNY/p.D4

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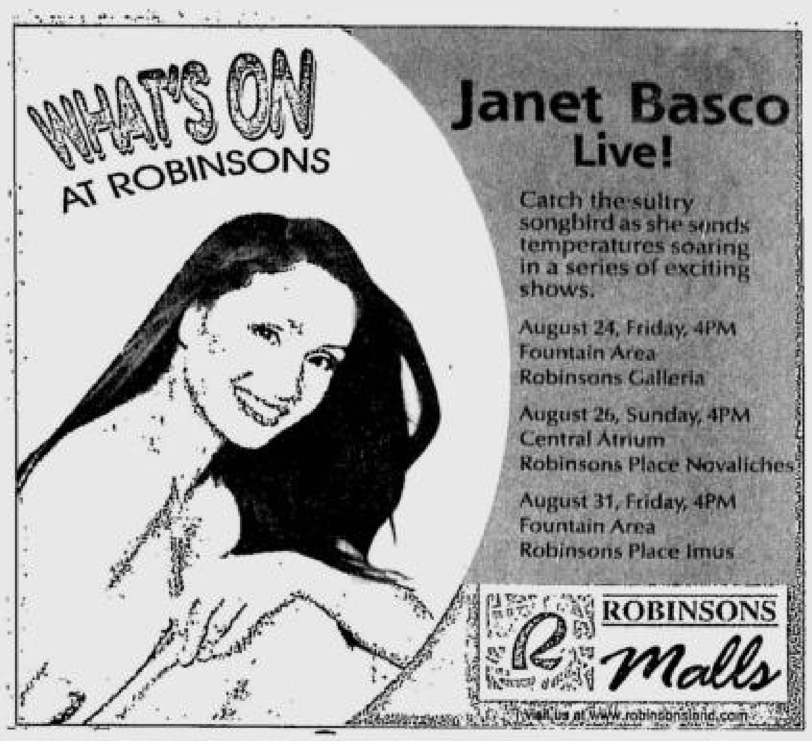

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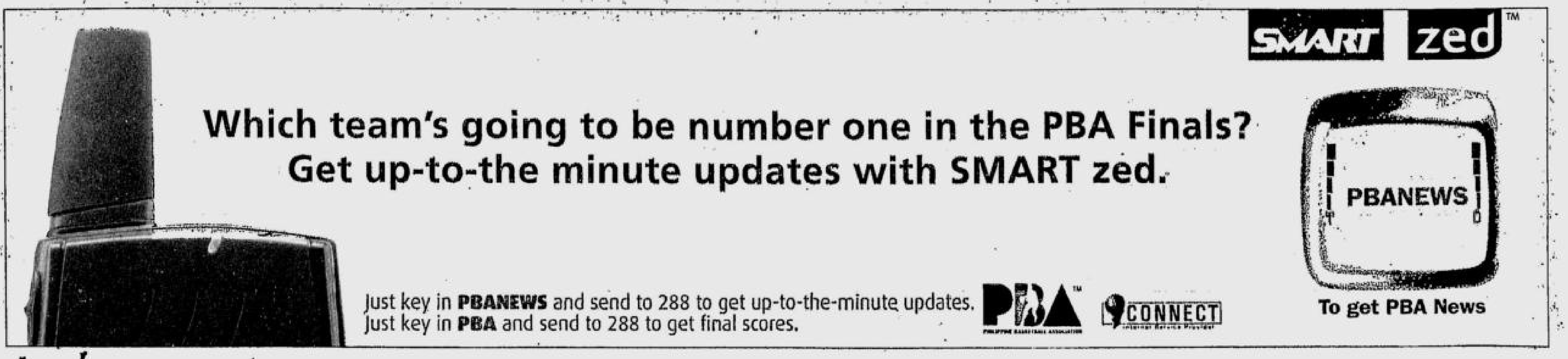

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'The Lark' moves to Shangri-La

EVEN as the raves have begun to pour in, Actor's Actors Inc.'s latest production "The Lark" gears up for the play's transfer to the William J. Shaw Theater on Aug. 24, 25 and 26.

It has been called "moving," "full of fine performances," and "highly entertaining" and has been hailed for its intelligent and provocative look at the life of one of the most mythical but misunderstood saints. Containing both gripping drama and hearty comedy, the play raises questions about the nature of piety, valor and of what it means to be a woman in a man's world.

Jean Anouilh's "The Lark" stars Lara Fabregas, Raymond Bagatsing, Michael Williams, Ed Feist, Apollo Abraham, Jackie Castillejo, Jim Paolelli and Chris Garcia. It chronicles the life and death of Joan of Arc through her trial by the Inquisition and flits between scenes from her past, the medieval trial and in director Bart Guingona's concept, our present.

"The Lark's" transfer to the William J. Shaw Theater of the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza marks the first phase of what Guingona calls AAI's "moveable feast," a TNT (The Necessary Theatre) Series that will experiment with different venues for its different plays. "We would like the venues of the plays to contribute to each of the works' textures as well as be more accessible to the people of the metropolis," he says.

Gripping and moving at the same time, the play is a veritable showcase for the talents of some of the country's brightest young talents. Lara Fabregas merited an Aliw Award for Best Stage Actress last year. Raymond Bagatsing is known for his amazing versatility and has won a slew of acting awards to prove it. Michael Williams has done shows in London's West End and tons of musical leads for Repertory Philippines, and is considered one of the finest actors today. Ed Feist, iron-hot Myx VJ, finds himself coming back to the theater as often as his schedule will allow.

"The Lark" will have performances on Aug. 24, 25 at 8 p.m., and Aug. 26 at 3 p.m. at the William J. Shaw Theater, Shangri-La Edsa. Tickets are available at all National Bookstore Ticketworld outlets and at AAI. Call 536-5844 or visit www.actorsactors.com.

NEWLYWEDS. Raymond Bagatsing plays the Inquisitor to his real-life wife, Lara Fabregas, who portrays Joan of Arc. PHOTO: PATRICK PARSONS

Abundance is a way of thinking

THE FIRST thing is to understand that abundance is a state of consciousness. It is not a sum of money, though money may be an important part of it. Abundance resides within us.

We are naturally abundant beings. It doesn't matter what the circumstances of our life are, abundance is already inherent in us. If, instead of struggling to fix the outside world we recognize the abundance that already exists "out here," we will see an abundant universe.

Then there is what I call "apple prospects." Sometimes there aren't any apples on the tree, but then the season comes and apples come. So every season, there are apples. It is the same in our life. Abundance has its own rhythm. The apples will always come.

To manifest abundance, I have to start with a thought, because all manifest things started with a thought. So here is the key: Watch your thoughts. We might be surprised to find that a lot of them really don't serve us. They do not deliver what we would really like.

The easy way to manifest abundance is to live in vision. Instead of struggling to get what we want, live in the picture of how we want our life to be.

Let me give you an example of what I call the "camera model." The model can tell us how we can turn an idea, a thought, a vision into action. If you want to take a photograph, the first thing you do is take the camera (the film in this analogy is consciousness) and point it at what you want to capture in film.

Visualize it

Let's say you want to go to the Cayman Islands, so you point your thoughts toward that place. You need to focus, to be clear on what exactly you want. After you focus, the next step is the decision to do it. If you decide to do it, it is already happening because everything we create within us has a way of turning outward. You don't have to know how to do it. The universe will handle the details.

Often the decision is the hardest part. The decision changes our life. Every time we make a new decision, we've gone in a new direction. If we make the decision, we've created a way in which the mind can go to work to bring us all of the things that we need.

So we make the decision, now all there is is process. We've done the creative bit. (In photography), the important thing is not to open the camera so you don't ruin the film. Just live in the knowledge that you have decided and what you decide comes about.

How did you get there? You had your vision and you made a decision. If you have confusion, you confuse your creation. We can use the same principle with every creation, whatever we're creating (we have to clear the confusion) and live in the vision.

Yesterday's dreams

Yesterday's dreams are today's reality. What we dreamt yesterday is happening today. If we look at our today and it is empty, it is because our dreams were not strong enough yesterday, or we were not committed enough to a particular dream or we were confused.

The question really is, "What are you dreaming today? What are you envisioning now?" Is it clear? Is it what you really want? Are you putting your attention on what you'd really like to have or are you putting your attention on what you'd like not to have? Put yourself in what you want, rather than complain about what you don't want.

The same principle applies at a higher level. What do you want to be? Do you want anger or peace, fear or love in your life? What you see in yourself will eventually be in yourself.

Abundance is a here-and-now experience. Once you have created a vision, it's already a reality, it is already happening. It's just that it takes time to play out in the physical universe or in my spiritual development.

Be sparing and you have enough for one, cultivate sharing and you have enough for everybody. It's a wonderful abundance principle. What you want for others is what you get for yourself. So to want everybody to be abundant is a good thought, it's a good desire. By desiring prosperity for all, you are opening the door for your own prosperity. We give what we want to receive. We receive what we want to give.

Ultimately you can only get yourself and all you are giving to yourself. In other words, if I am giving gifts of money, friendship or opportunities, I am opening the door to receive the same for me. If I am giving judgment, criticism, blame, putting people down, I can expect it back again.

Law of Karma

It is the Law of Karma—what I give I receive. But Karma's not something to be afraid of. Watch the thought and make sure it's the highest thought, it's the most loving and most generous thought, then it will come back that way.

We create through our thinking. So we might as well create a universe that is pleasurable for us and others. By giving others what we would really like to have, we are giving to ourselves.

If we live in anger, upset and complaint, we block all the gifts that are there for us. Many people are angry at the world for not giving them what they want. But the world could not give them what they want because they are so angry.

So I would recommend that they dissolve their angry and resentful thoughts. You cannot change the world from without. Change the world from within, have a better vision, have a better relationship with yourself and be willing to receive the gifts that come to you.

Be grateful for what you have and be grateful for all the things you are looking forward to having.

Fear is a weakness

Don't be distracted by fear in any form. Fear blocks the giving and weakens the vision. You are an abundant being. You live in fear with thoughts like "I can't pay that bill, I can't pay the mortgage, I have to work hard in order to pay my way." It does not have to be that way. If we return to a vision which is to see a bill paid, maybe something wonderful will happen. If we live in the vision that the bills are paid, we may be shown a whole new way of doing things. Then we can lift ourselves out of the fear into creativity.

It is impossible to be fearful when you are creative. In the creativity of the moment the fear goes and you just walk in courage and faith. Faith means to hold the vision without there being any real evidence that it is going to happen—that is faith. So it is the bridge between the vision and the manifestation.

I find with people who are depressed and miserable that once they get in touch with their creativity, when they visualize what they want, suddenly there is a smile on their face, all becomes possible. What happened? The thoughts changed, that is all. They moved from a place of doom and gloom to a place of possibility.

Everything is possible, this is abundance thinking. There is nothing that is not possible. If I can think of it, it has to be possible, because wherever there's a thought, then there's a possibility to manifest it. To decide means to cut out every other thing. A nice idea is not enough.

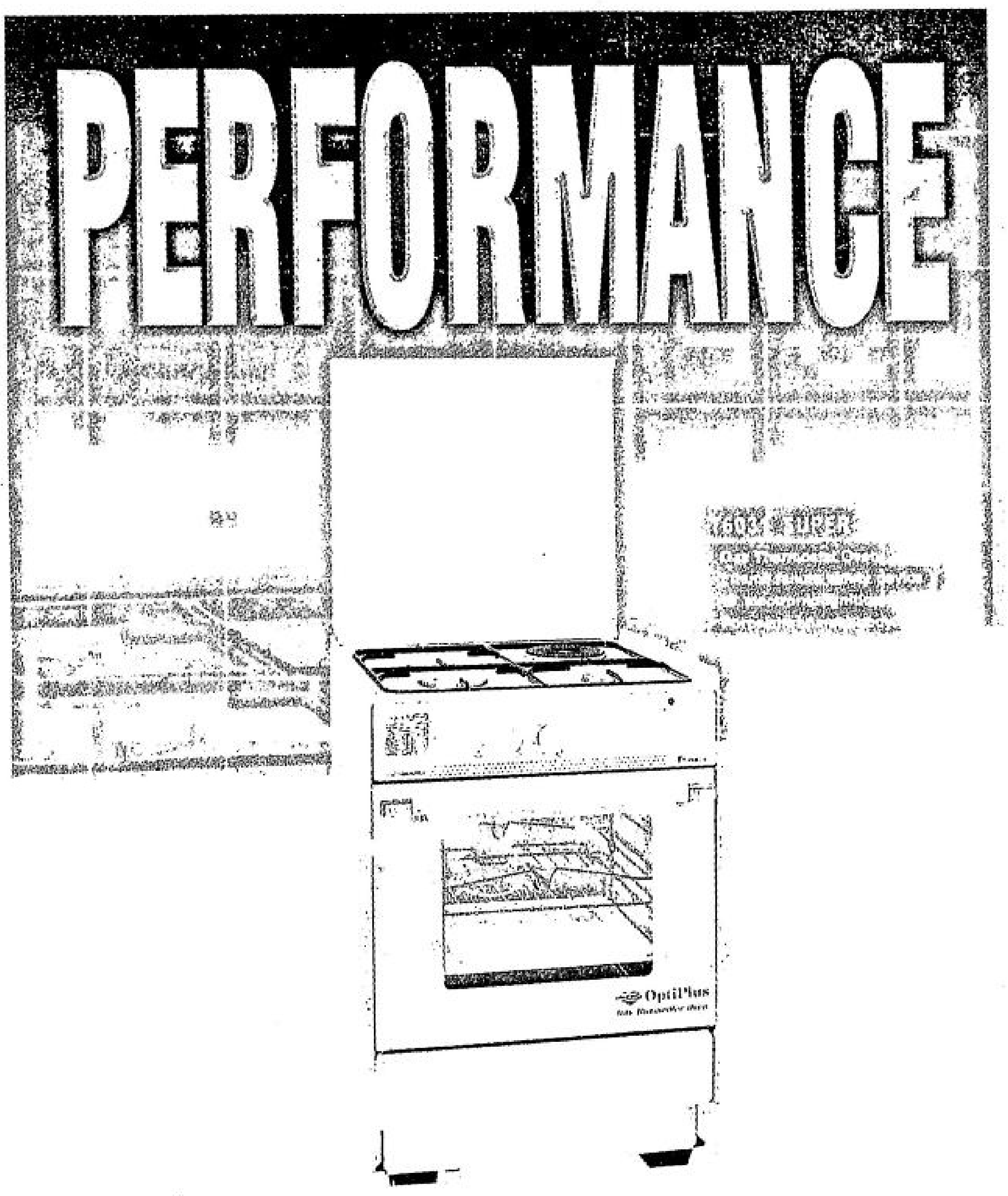
Follow your heart

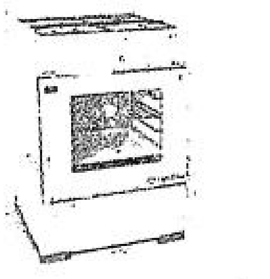
We have to follow our call. It might sound callous to say, I have this call to do this, I have to go. If I am following my call everybody around me is going to benefit from it because I will be at my best. It does not mean I am throwing them away. It just means that I am following my passion.

Ultimately, we live life together; we are all part of the same whole, so prosperity is people. But you may find that if you're hanging on to people from the past, it is necessary to let them go and let the universe take them to the right place. You do not have to hang on to the stars. You don't even have to manage the stars. If you look up at the sky, they are fine.

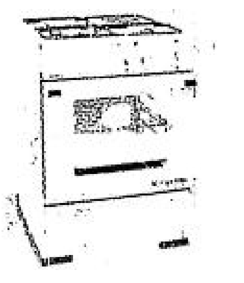
(We should abandon the view) that we have to control the world, manage the world, fix the world. It is too much of an effort. Follow what is true for you and that will be the greatest contribution.

Sean de Warren, life coach and mentor

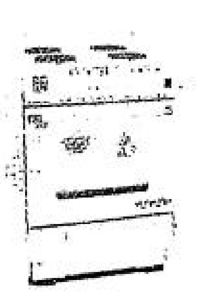




T613 ECO
- 1 turbo, 1 large and 1 medium gas top burners w/ automatic piezo ignition
- 1 (145mm) fast heat hotplate w/ pilot light indicator
- Gas Thermostat Oven
- Porcelain enamel body



T6031 MS
- 1 turbo, 1 large and 1 medium gas top burners w/ electronic ignition
- 1 (145mm) fast heat hotplate w/ pilot light indicator
- 9-Setting Multifunction Oven
- Porcelain enamel body



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Singing her own song
Karylle Tatlonghari
Sunshiny Karylle Tatlonghari is gathering buzz and praise and she emerges as the newest "It" girl in town
August 26, 2001 Issue
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER MAGAZINE

British line of fragrances now in Manila

THE MILLER Harris line of fragrances that has swept English women off their feet is now in Manila.

The fragrances, perfumer Lyn Harris' personal expression of her art that range from eau de parfum to body oil to candles, draw on the finest traditions of the perfumer's craft. But they carry Harris' trademark originality and crisp lightness of touch.

The Miller Harris line features three fragrances. Couer de Fleu is a warm, feminine, spring floral with a surprising power and just a hint of hot summer days. Citron Citron is the ideal citrus fragrance—vibrant, refreshing, simple and exotic. Terre de Bois is a warm, comforting and richly elegant fragrance in the classic French style.

The fragrances come in eau de parfum, eau de toilette, bath essence, and candles (available in Couer de Fleur and Terre de Bois) that are made from natural vegetable resins and has burning time of up to 50 hours.

Miller Harris fragrances are available here in the lifestyle store Wish located at the Shangri-La Makati Shopping Arcade on Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

MILLER

RUSTAN'S marketing director, Monty Roxas, Lancôme's Ana Perez de Tagle, L'Oréal's country manager Paul-Henri Duillet and Edwina Guiyab, GM of luxury division

Performing a miracle

FOR A NEW fragrance to be a hit in the saturated market, it's got to perform a miracle. This is what Lancôme aims to prove. Miracle starts with a whiff of green and fruity scents. At the heart are magnolia and spices for sexy undertones. As it lingers, it evokes sensual sounds of jasmine, musk and amber.

Uma Thurman is Miracle's image model She evokes beauty and that other-world charm.

MIRACLE girl of the night, Tessa Valdes

IN THE PINK. L'Oréal's PR manager Leica Carpo and TV host Pia Guanio

CHEF Joey Carpo

Detergent preserves colors

A NEW product that helps preserve the brightness of dark colors has been introduced in the Philippines.

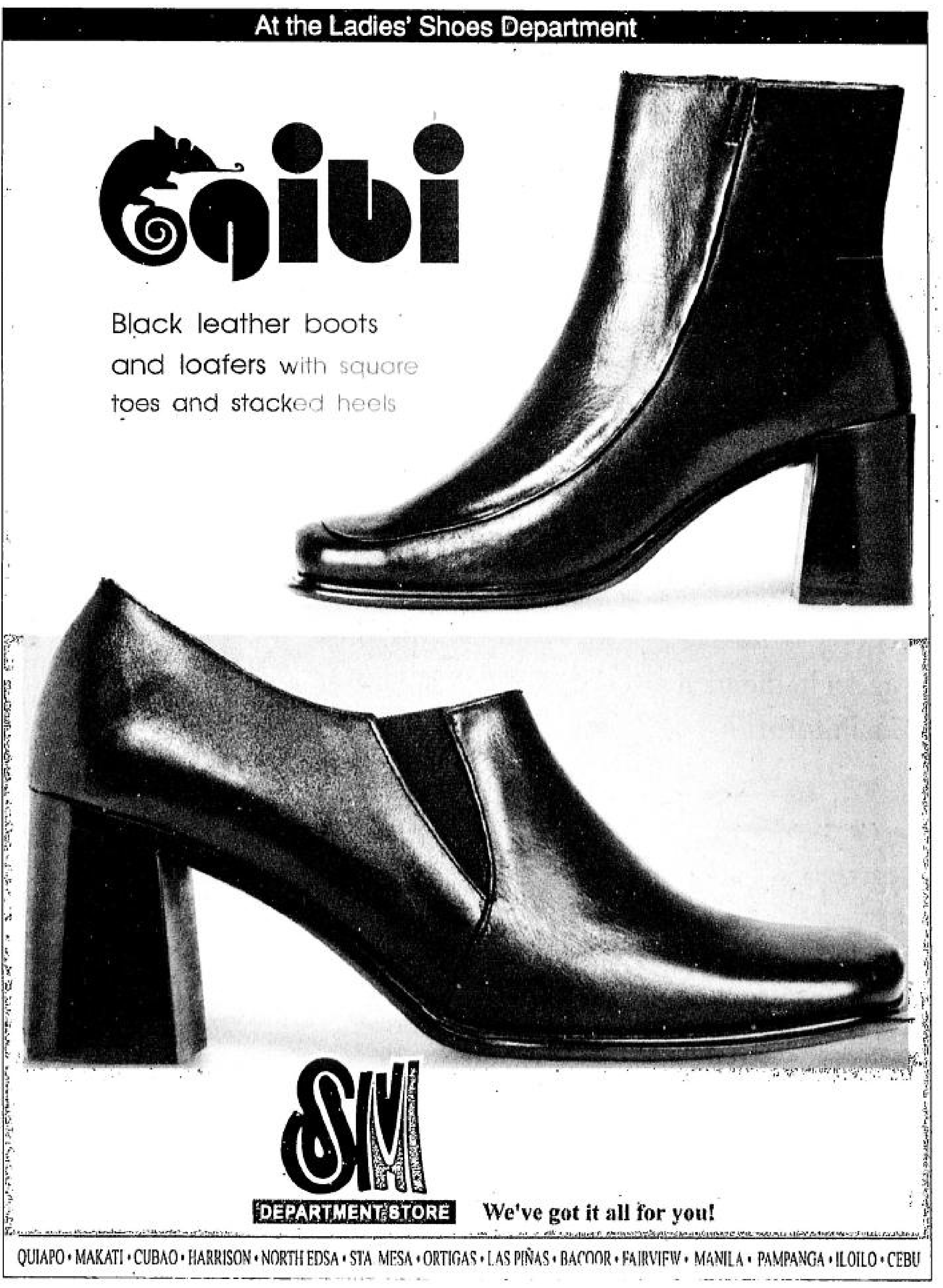
Henkel, the renowned German detergent company, is bringing Fewa (pronounced as Fay-va) Black Magic into the Philippine market.

Fewa Black Magic is a liquid laundry detergent especially developed for cleaning and maintaining black and dark colored clothes. It contains two substances that keep outfits looking new for a long time.

The detergent can be used for machine- or hand-washed clothes.

Fewa Black Magic is distributed locally by Henkel Phils., a German company widely known for its household cleaning products.

NO need to worry about losing the brilliance of black- and dark-colored outfits.


At the Ladies' Shoes Department

Gibi

Black leather boots and loafers with square toes and stacked heels

SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!

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Jollibee Journal

SPAGTACULAR!

NEW
chicken pasta
PRIMERA
P49

*T*his isn't a dream sequence...premium quality pasta cooked *al dente*, delectably tender chicken chunks, topped with mouth-watering blend of sweet, sour, and spicy tomato sauce with real crushed tomatoes, mushrooms, bell pepper, onions, and black olives for a strong, tangy flavor that's truly tempting! This is Jollibee's newest product offering – a prime news and a sure hit for pasta lovers and connoisseurs alike –*the new Chicken Pasta Primera!*

Experience the new Chicken Pasta Primera at ₱49 as a solo item or ₱55 as a value meal. Go to Jollibee now to make this *spagtacular* dream come true!

SAN JUAN BLESSES NEWEST JOLLIBEE STORE

Student representatives from La Salle, Immaculate Conception Academy, and Xavier join Jollibee during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

*T*his August, Jollibee Foods Corporation opened ***Jollibee Ortigas-Roosevelt*** in Ortigas Avenue, San Juan. Students from La Salle Greenhills, Xavier, and Immaculate Conception Academy gathered to the store for the blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremonies officiated by Fr. Benjamin Sim, S.J., of Mary the Queen Parish. Greenhills Brgy. Captain Pablo David and Mrs. Preciosa Soliven of OB Montessori also graced the revered occasion by slicing the store's first burger.

More San Juan residents and employees can now conveniently savor the taste that enamored millions of Filipinos. Jollibee's blessings simply keep on coming!

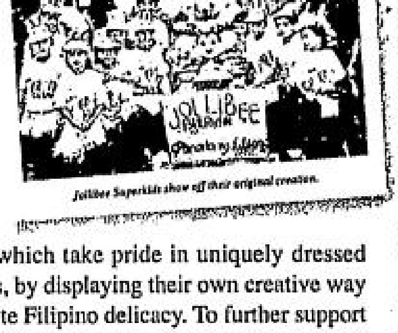
JOLLIBEE GREENHILLS SPEED-SHIFTS TO 10 GEARS!

Jollibee poses with members of the Jollibee Greenhills Cycling Club

*T*en years ago, cycling enthusiasts Rannie Raymundo and Paeng Nepomuceno (yes, he's not only a bowling master but a biking buff too!) founded a Cycling Club to keep fit and build camaraderie among leisure bikers that circle around the Greenhills Shopping Center during mornings. Their headquarters/*tambayan:* Jollibee Greenhills!

Now on its 10th year, ***the Jollibee Greenhills Cycling Club*** headed by Ricky Lahoz are on a red line, celebrating their anniversary with a blast. Last June 22, a motorcade of hundreds of bicycles, a Fun Run, and exciting games with the Jollibee mascot were conducted to cap a day filled with fun and memories for the whole Management Team of Jollibee Greenhills, as well as the participants and members of the Club.

LECHON de LANGHAP-SARAP!



Jollibee Superkids show off their original creation.

*B*alayan, Batangas celebrated the annual ***Parada ng Lechon*** with no other than the Jollibee Superkids Club members and our lovable Jollibee mascot. The Superkids of Balayan joined the festivities, which take pride in uniquely dressed up roast pigs or lechons, by displaying their own creative way of decorating the favorite Filipino delicacy. To further support this festive occasion, Jollibee Balayan, Batangas also donated trashcans for the municipality's cleanliness campaign.

For feedback, comments, or suggestions, please write to:
Jollibee Journal
c/o the Marketing Division, Jollibee Center
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Jollibee®

ROUGH-HAIRED cavy

FUZZBALL is a short-earred rabbit.

YOUNG dwarf rabbit with fuzzy fur and dropping ears

PERUVIAN cavy

LONG-HAIRED Sheltie needs daily grooming.

LONG-HAIRED Sheltie

ABYSSINIAN beauties have typical whorled hair

NEW ON THE PET FRONTIER

Unorthodox rabbits and guinea pigs

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Romy Homillada

SAY goodbye to Bugs Bunny. Welcome the cute and cuddly American Fuzzy Lop, a dwarf rabbit with long hair and drooping ears that weighs about 1½ kilos.

Fuzzy Lop is just one of the new pet rabbits that a growing number of pet lovers are crazy about. There's smallish Jersey Wooly with 2-inch long hair you'll want to stroke. She weighs about 2 kilos. And there is also Netherland Dwarf, the tiniest we've seen so far, which weighs less than a kilo, and is now fully matured, mother to a healthy litter of round-faced baby rabbits.

About 30 fuzzy rabbits and 180-odd assortment of guinea pigs and hamsters make up the pet menagerie of Vic Chin Jr., evidently a compulsive hobbyist of sorts. He also collects orchids and ornamental plants inside a big greenhouse. His lories, canaries, pet turtles, cats and dogs, are another story.

Fascinating pets

Why the unique obsession with furry pets?

According to Chin, rabbits and guinea pigs are cute in every way. They have soft, silky fur and kind eyes. What's more, rabbits can be tamed as house pets. They are not noisy like dogs, added Chin. And, some people get a kick out of brushing their long hair and giving them a good shampoo.

He has learned to read the body signs of his pet wards. "The adult guinea pigs turn around and share their heads when they're happy. It's called a guinea pig dance. The babies hop on four feet. It is called popping corn."

Like people, guinea pigs can get bored and they become lethargic. When they're under stress due to noise or movement of people, they don't close their eyes. But pleased with their surrounding, they take naps and are able to sleep in peace.

Chin is not the only oddball in town who has this unique "pettishism" for the unorthodox guinea pigs, hamsters and rabbits. There are a few other interesting people who are as obsessed as Chin and have recently organized the Philippine Federation of Guinea Pig Breeders. Some of them participate in special pet exhibitions. A few others make trips to pet shows in the US where they buy new pets and observe new trends.

Their grooming kits contain special shampoo, soft baby brush, spray to disentangle matted hair and nail clipper

OWNER Vic Chin Jr. grooms hair of Silkie guinea pig

Interesting personalities

Guinea pig fanciers are as interesting as their pets. Jimmy Lim is said to have acquired as many as 300 guinea pigs. Meralco consultant Fred Salud started with a few heads and the tribe is increasing. Danny Ang, the vet-med and officer of the Avian Society, has developed special cages that are designed to be user-friendly to the pets.

Anne Periquet is the member who got so attached to her pet of five years that she cried her heart out when it died. She and her fellow hobbyists gave the pet a proper funeral and kept a lock of hair to remind her of happy days. Johnny Filart is the writer of the group who writes authoritatively on guinea pig special care.

Emil Yap III has his pets close to his work place. These are housed in an air-conditioned quarter.

Costly upkeep

To keep them looking good, the pets are groomed regularly. Their grooming kits contain special shampoo, soft baby brush, spray to disentangle matted hair and nail clipper.

Keeping up with the high cost of upkeep is no joke. One of the members says he spends roughly P2,500 a month for imported guinea pig pellets. Another member feeds his pets a special holding ration containing a small amount of calf manna pellets. Once in a while the pets eat carrots and fresh grass and drink water with Vitamin C.

"Guinea pigs suffer from scurvy when they are malnourished. They succumb to heat stroke if the temperature is too high," Chin said.

Warm temperature in the Philippines is the enemy of the imported guinea pigs and rabbits, particularly those with long hair. When they start chewing their hair, it is a sign that they are deeply disturbed by the heat. "To keep cool, they splash water on their faces. Eventually, the hair becomes matted, and they're a mess to look at," Chin added.

Chin and some of the members of the breeders club have since installed air-conditioning units in the pet houses. Some of them don't mind the cost, after all they can sell the pets at a profit. A good-looking pair of rabbits, for example, can fetch as much as P3,500.

Call Chin at 0919-8657803 and Danny Ang at 282-3249.

Manny Pangilinan joins Lina in crime fight

(From page D1)

fortunately, now only less than 5 percent of the calls coming in are genuine. Obviously, people have yet to take Call 117 seriously—like they do 911 in the US. But for the valid calls that do come in, Mendoza claimed, crime is actually prevented. Call 117 alerts the barangays or police units where the crime is happening. The calls report mostly cases of public disturbance, or even rape. Lina claimed that there were instances Call 117 prevented rape from being committed.

PLDT is also about to install crime hotlines in the most crime-prone areas in Metro Manila. Quezon City, for instance, has the highest car theft incidence, according to Mendoza, owing to its sheer land area alone.

Incest

In their police "crime clock," he said, Wednesdays and Fridays have the highest incidence of bank robberies (that's when banks' vaults are full), 4 to 6 a.m. is ripe for car thefts, 10 p.m. to the wee hours for rape.

As what the dailies have established, many of the urban rape cases the police still get are incestuous. "They happen in the cramped shacks where the whole family sleeps together. The mother rises early morning to work or prepare breakfast, and the daughters are left alone in the room. Because it's hot, *hindi daw nakakumot 'yung babae* (the girl isn't covered by a blanket)," Mendoza described the opt-repeated scenario in their blotter.

But more than the above, the crime that's bound to drive families out of the country is the kidnap-for-ransom which you hear has accelerated to random level already in the malls. Lina and Mendoza were quick to claim that in the past weeks there had been no kidnap-for-ransom cases, and that the crime is actually under control.

"Simply because," Mendoza said, "we have caught the 'pointers' in the Tsinoy communities. These are friends or kin of the kidnap victims, those who actually live in their midst, who point out these victims to kidnap gangs."

Image-building

What Lina and Mendoza, who are after all backed by a P1 billion budget, want to work for is the increase of the policeman's salary from P7,000-P8,000 to the same level as the teacher's. Mendoza also wants to deploy young police recruits out on the streets to replace the old fixed-in-their-ways ones. These young policemen, Lina said, are so new they don't even know their way yet in the city. On Monday, these young policemen will parade in the business district of Makati—good start for image-building.

When the number of calls to 117 goes up, it should be a good sign that people believe again in the men in uniform

RATTAN tray-table with close cane webbing

PHOTOS: AVA LUGTU

And Pangilinan has given his word to Lina that by 2003, Call 117 will be in each barangay in the country. "Public apathy," Lina said, "is the problem in crime-fighting."

He could be right. But I think apathy is only a symptom of the people's loss of trust in men in uniform. You know what we ordinary folks want? For us and our family to be able to drive to and from our house—even in the middle of the night—feeling safe, without hijackers cutting into our path; to be able to mall, travel, move around without our cell phones being snatched, or worse. And—this is a worn-out line—for the military and the police, those tasked to fight crime, to stop committing crime and trafficking drugs.

You restore people's faith in the military and police institution and you already win half the fight against crime.

When the number of legit calls to Call 117 increases, that should be a good sign—not really that criminality is on the rise—but that people believe in their mandated protectors enough to call 117. When that day comes, it is a sign that people again trust the system and the institution.

Doing his homework

All the while that we were talking crime, Manny Pangilinan, looking dapper as usual in his dark suit, striped shirt and printed tie, was limiting himself to a few words, that was until I asked him about his latest acquisition—GMA 7.

He said that he's neither glued to the TV set now nor shows up in the GMA offices, but I got the feeling he's really hands-on where TV programming is concerned. He said he doesn't watch TV every night, except for "Front Page," and believes **Mel Tiangco** is "really good." He also monitors the Sunday noon shows "Asap" and "SOP" and has his own verdict which is better.

He then ticked off what seemed like a score card for GMA 7 programming vis-à-vis competition: news and public affairs, comedy, drama, variety show. (Am not saying.)

Yup, he's doing his homework. We're looking forward to a bloody good fight, sir.

Today's bride thinks big

We got an insight into today's Filipino bride when **Bob Zozobrado** invited us over to Borders to chat with **Alice Streegan-Cruz**, the woman behind the stylish home store.

We found interesting Alice's observations about her young clientele. She said, for wedding gifts, today's brides prefer basic and major stuff they could use around the house, such as furniture and home accents, in place of the usual trays and bric-a-brac one gets tons of.

"You can see that today's bride, when she fills up the bridal registry, plans her home, from the furniture to home accents, and she wants her gifts to fall in accordingly," Alice said. "She's in control."

Unlike the older generations, today's bride is not at the mercy of gift-givers who end up loading up the newlyweds with picture frames, trays and more trays.

And what's the 21st century Pinoy bride's taste in furniture?

"Interestingly, it's the opposite of what her parents had," said Alice. "Whereas her mom, for instance, went for carved, ornate furniture—very rich—today's young brides go for simple geometric lines; she mixes materials—leather, metal, wood. She's more practical and knows how to mix and match her furnishings."

TODAY'S brides are confident enough to know how to use these silver chalice-like vessels as home décor, also at Borders.

For generations now, Alice's Cebu-based family has been known for finely crafted furniture, particularly wood. That they opened Borders in 1997 was but a logical move. Since then this home store has been known not so much for traditional or period European pieces, as for what you call "transition" line—in between the traditional and the modern and minimalist.

Indeed I notice such is the taste of today's brides—nothing stuffy or heavy, nothing design-formulaic, but a mix-match of styles, eclectic as in fashion. But I also see that they go for a good material first—they feel safe with wood particularly, giving it a modern finish and finely crafted detailing, as in a desk secretary with close cane webbing. Today's bride is a breed exposed to all types of style glossies, lifestyle videos, movies and the Net. She goes into her wedding knowing how she wants her home to be, down to the kitchen accents and even laundry baskets. Of course, she also knows how she wants her man to be.

But then it's simpler to design a home than a husband.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan @link.com.ph

Look young without going under the knife

WHEN a woman's skin reaches maturity, her face tells the whole story. According to a study on cutaneous aging carried out by the Ceries lab of Chanel, practically every one of the signs of aging identified up to now is established by the age of 50. Not far behind comes slackening of the skin, the sign of aging that women dread most, because it affects the very structure of the face.

Chanel's skin-care line, Precision proposes an innovative alternative to cosmetic surgery for correcting the signs of aging in a total, active treatment for mature skin. Ultra Correction is a combination of two complementary antiaging actions—an effective cosmetic action, brought about by an exclusive combination of precisely targeted ingredients, and a high-precision mechanical action based on a specific method of self-massage.

Its strength lies in the ability to tackle all the signs of aging with a multi-dimensional approach by acting on each of the key layers of the skin. This original treatment is the result of work by the Ceries and its specialist understanding not only of healthy skin, but also of the structure of the face. The synergetic effect of the active ingredients and the massage are visible in just a few weeks.

Skin dryness linked to hormonal disturbances, a slowing-down in cell renewal, the breakdown of elastic fibers, pigmentation irregularities. All these are the problems of mature skin, reflected in a loss of firmness, an uneven complexion, an increase in the number and depth of lines, signs of discomfort.

Ultra Correction responds with a total treatment that gets to grips with the whole problem, literally. Based on research by Chanel and the latest scientific data from the Ceries, this innovative restructuring treatment tackles:

● Skin slackening by stimulating the production of the anchor molecules, specifically identified as the cornerstones of the structure of the skin. Their activity declines with age and causes the collapse of the facial structure;

● The other visible signs of aging (lines, dark spots, skin dryness) by boosting the general metabolism of the skin.

● Restructured, smoothed, toned, the face is visibly rejuvenated.

The synergetic ingredients are an extract of yeast with an exceptional effective action on the synthesis of the anchor molecules and a complex based on glutamic acid, a key substance in cell metabolism and a powerful stimulant for all skin functions. There are personalized offers of three products for a precise response to different needs: daytime—a mattifying lotion and a rich cream; nighttime—a moisturizing cream to meet the specific hydration needs of the skin at night.

Composed of collagen and glycoproteins, the anchor molecules situated at the epidermal-dermal junction (at the point of essential exchanges between the dermis and the epidermis) are like a Velcro fastening, attaching the dermis to the epidermis.

The Ultra Correction response is a yeast extract, biotechnological in origin, especially selected for its ability to stimulate the production of the anchor molecules. The result is a boost to the entire activity of the epidermal-dermal junction and a steady restoration of the epidermal-dermal links and exchanges. The skin, replenished with collagen, is more supple and toned. As the tissues are visibly firmer and plumped up, lines are softened. Facial contours are firmed.

The Ultra Correction response is an exclusive complex of biostimulating nanospheres of plant origin. The key ingredient is glutamic acid, extracted from a glycoprotein of sweet almond, which is a particularly rich source of the substance.

Glutamic acid boosts all the metabolic processes of the skin. The molecule is naturally present in the skin and is centrally involved in the main metabolic processes:

● It stimulates cell respiration; its effect is to increase oxygen consumption by the cells. The general energy metabolism is reactivated and boosted;

● It helps to strengthen the self-defense mechanism of the skin. By promoting the synthesis of glutation, a naturally occurring antioxidant in the skin, anti-free radical protection is increased and the skin's self-defense mechanism is restored;

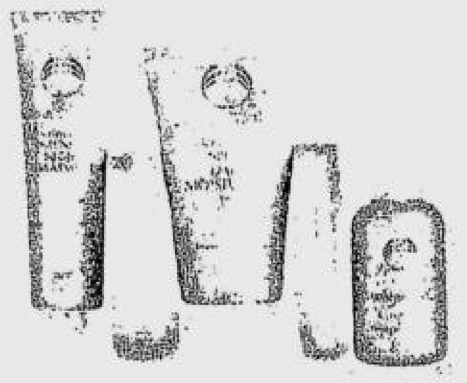
● It stimulates the detoxification process by increasing the rate of tissue detoxification.

All the processes of metabolism are boosted, skin function is restored to full power and skin is revitalized and regenerated. An extract of liquorice root prevents the appearance of pigment spots through a dual action: the inhibition of melanin synthesis and an anti-tyosinase action.

Chanel's Ultra Correction is distributed by Rustan's.

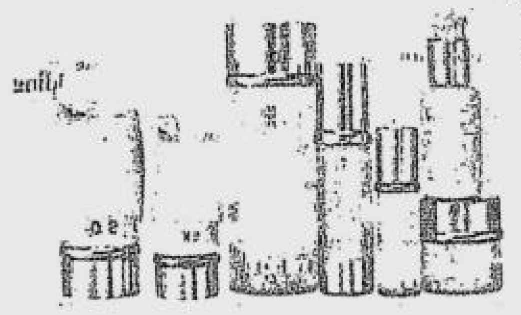
Skin vitamin

RESTORE natural radiance and enjoy a healthy complexion with skin that feels soft, smooth and revived with the new Vitamin C Skin Care Treatment range from The Body Shop. Vitamin C has been incorporated into each of the three treatment products that will revive, repair and moisturize your skin according to your individual needs.



Beauty from inside

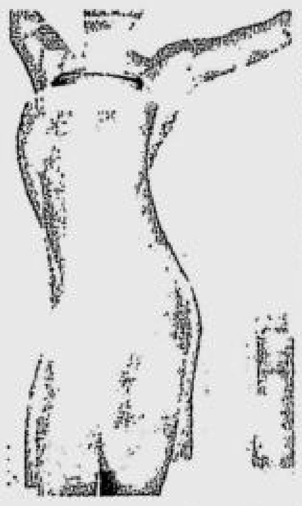
Working women will welcome Envie, a premium quality nutritional support formula for the skin. The product will help keep her skin looking young and tender as she juggles her various roles in both home and office. Envie, a pill, delivers skin support substances directly to the living layers of skin. It is exclusively distributed by ProSource Inc. and is available at selected Mercury and I-Mart stores.



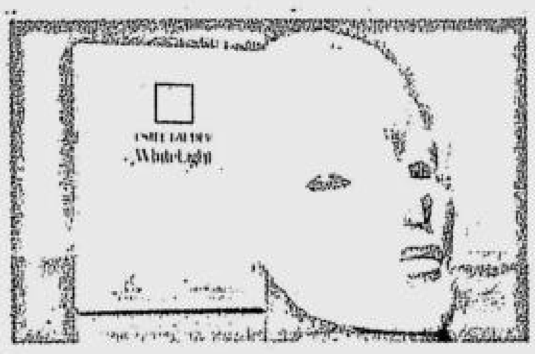
Oil blotters

La Prairie, a leading skin care brand from Switzerland available at Rustan's, has come up with skin care solutions to get rid of excess oil on the face. The Cellular Purifying Systeme is a skin care line that effectively re-balances the skin's chemical system to normalize moisture and control oil secretion. The Cellular Purifying Systeme consists of seven products.

Get read of cellulite



Christian Dior's Body Model Ultra-Firming Multi-Sensory Gel may be just the kind of product for people who are not able to go to the gym as often as they want. Available at Rustan's, the gel helps get rid of cellulite for a smoother look. It contains the revolutionary formula Bio-Sculptine and the body-specific modeling agent Toniline that stimulates, retexturizes and reorganizes fibrous tissue.



Protection from sun damage

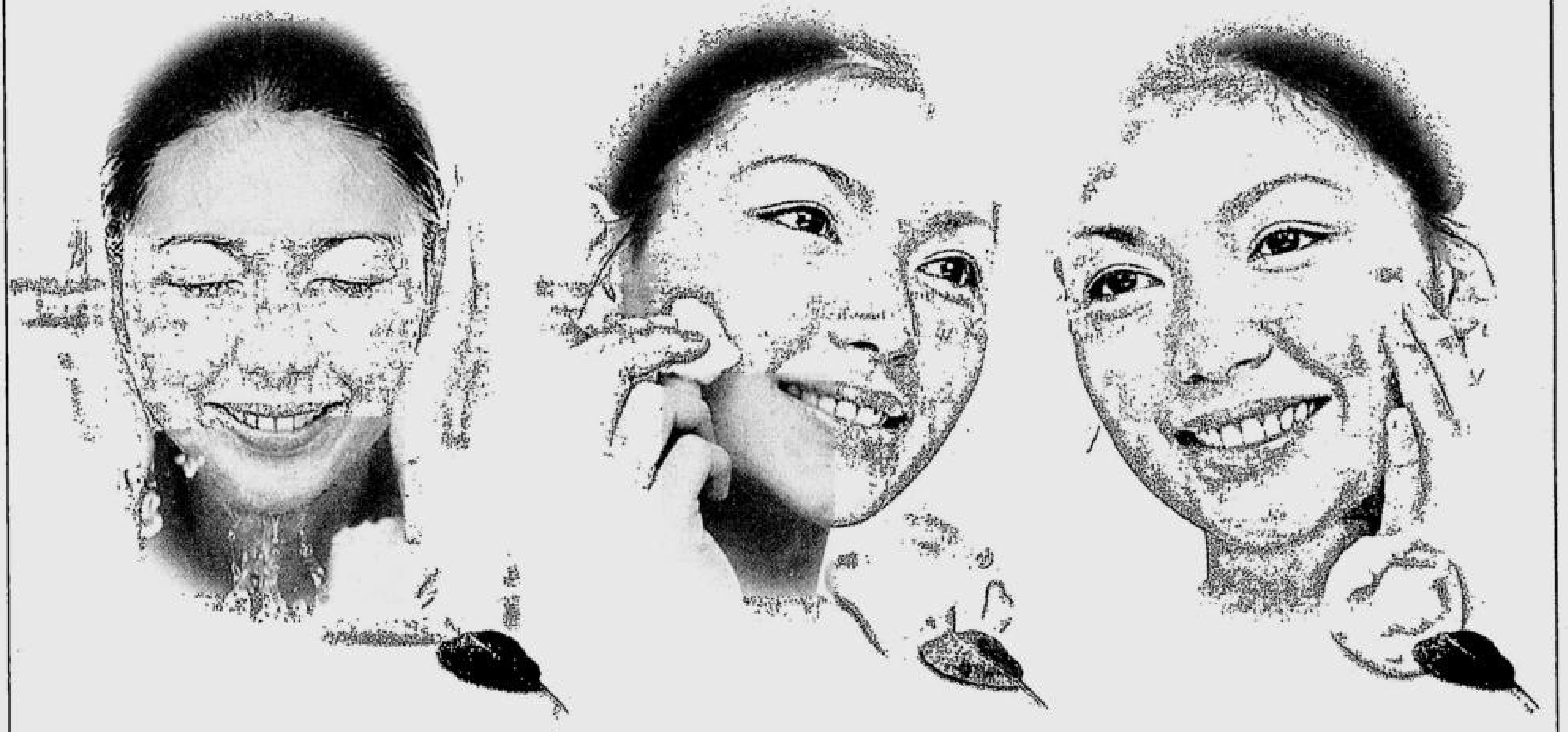
Estée Lauder gives the Filipino woman new ways to protect herself from the sun and to whiten her skin with the introduction of the Whitelight Brightening Powder Foundation SPF24 and the Whitelight Brightening Mask. Both products are part of Estee Lauder's Whitelight Brightening System, a state-of-the-art approach to treating dark spots caused by the environment's assault on the skin.

****

The Body Shop recommends a simple three-step process and an extra treatment, to be done in the morning and evening, to reduce skin pigmentation. The process involves the use of a cleansing powder, toning essence and moisture lotion. A moisture cream plus completes the procedure. The Shop offers whitening products that contain Vitamin C derivative (magnesium ascorbyl phosphate) and licorice extract (licorice flavonoid gladbridin).

Start the Skintel Beautiful Habit Now.

Introducing the
3 effective habits to
beautiful skin



Habit #1 CLEANSE
with Skintel Facial soap
to improve your skin texture

Habit #2 TONE
with Skintel Facial Toner
to effectively remove
dead skin

Habit #3 MOISTURIZE
with Skintel Facial Cream
to lessen lines and wrinkles

HABIT NO.1 IS FREE
Get a FREE Skintel Facial Soap
with every purchase of any Skintel Product.
Offer good from August 15 - Sept.30

SKINTEL
ASTRINGENT TONER
SKINTEL
FACIAL CREAM

Beautiful Habit.
Beautiful Result.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.0600 Series of 2001

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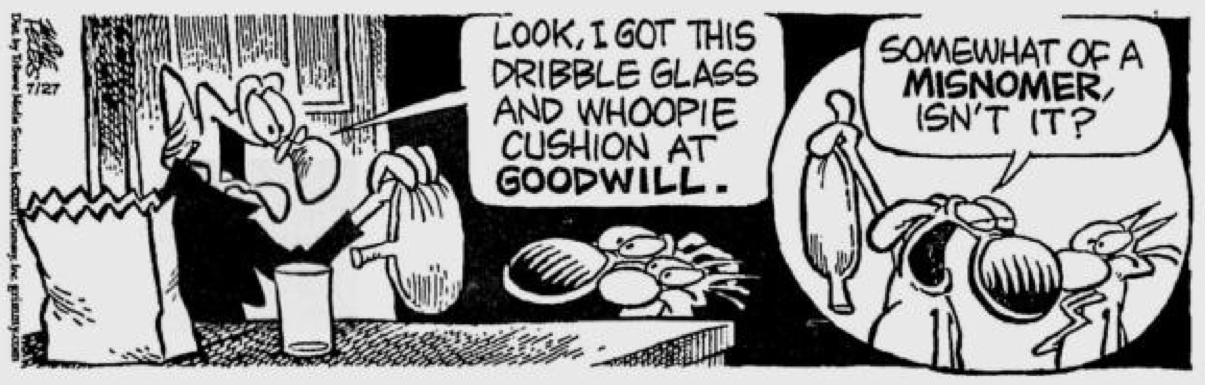
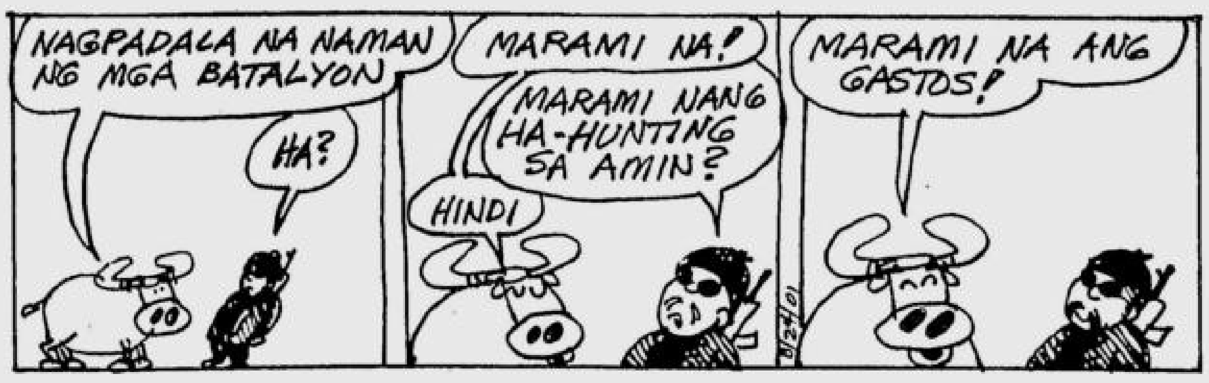
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


7/27
LOOK, I GOT THIS DRIBBLE GLASS AND WHOOPIE CUSHION AT GOODWILL.
SOMEWHAT OF A MISNOMER, ISN'T IT?

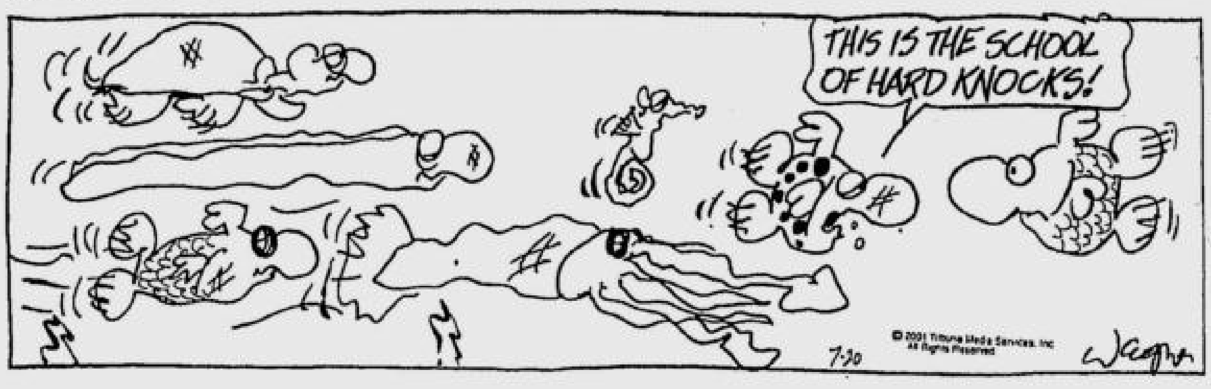
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAGPADALA NA NAMAN NG MGA BATALYON
HA?
MARAMI NA!
MARAMI NANG HA-HUNTING SA AMIN?
HINDI
MARAMI NA ANG GASTOS!
8/24/01

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


THIS IS THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS!
7-30
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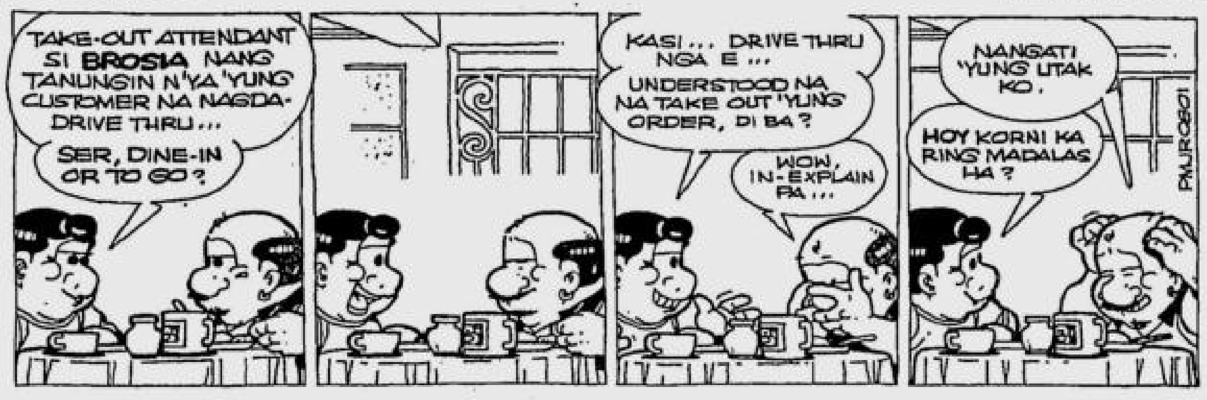
Wagner

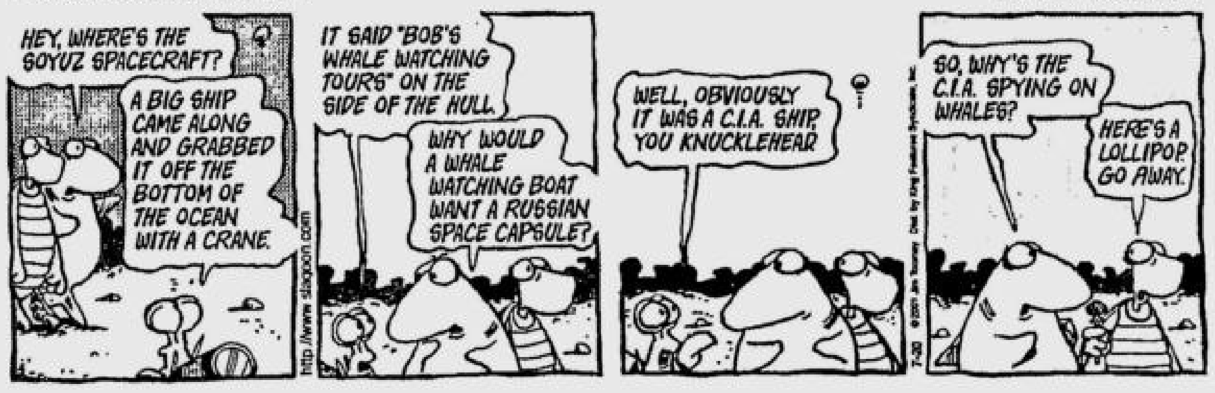
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TAKE-OUT ATTENDANT SI BROSIA NANG TANUNGIN N'YA 'YUNG CUSTOMER NA NAGDA-DRIVE THRU...
SER, DINE-IN OR TO GO?
KASI... DRIVE THRU NGA E...
UNDERSTOOD NA NA TAKE OUT 'YUNG ORDER, DI BA?
WOW, IN-EXPLAIN PA...
NANGATI 'YUNG UTAK KO.
HOY KORNI KA RING MADALAS HA?
PMJR0801

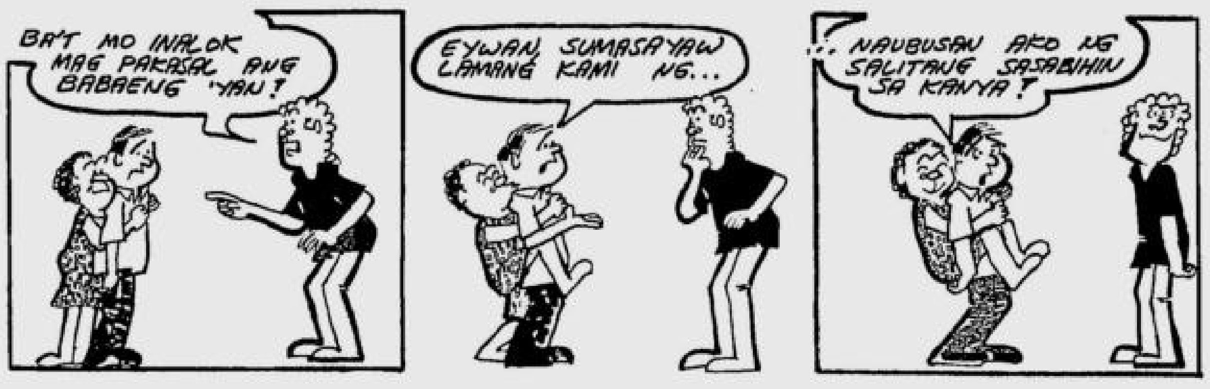
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, WHERE'S THE SOYUZ SPACECRAFT?
A BIG SHIP CAME ALONG AND GRABBED IT OFF THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN WITH A CRANE.
http://www.slagoon.com
IT SAID "BOB'S WHALE WATCHING TOURS" ON THE SIDE OF THE HULL.
WHY WOULD A WHALE WATCHING BOAT WANT A RUSSIAN SPACE CAPSULE?
WELL, OBVIOUSLY IT WAS A C.I.A. SHIP, YOU KNUCKLEHEAD
SO, WHY'S THE C.I.A. SPYING ON WHALES?
HERE'S A LOLLIPOP. GO AWAY.

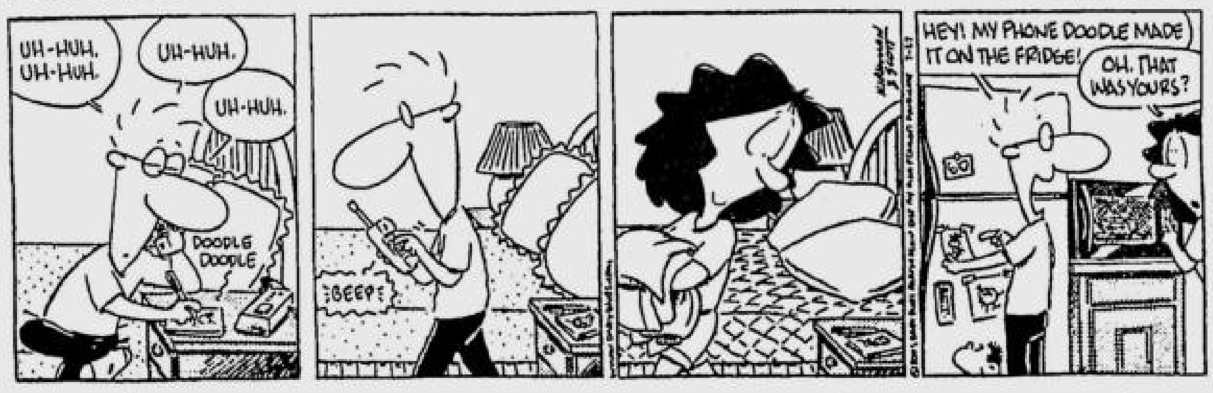
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BA'T MO INALOK MAG PAKASAL ANG BABAENG 'YAN?
EYWAN, SUMASAYAW LAMANG KAMI NG...
...NAUBUSAN AKO NG SALITANG SASABIHIN SA KANYA?

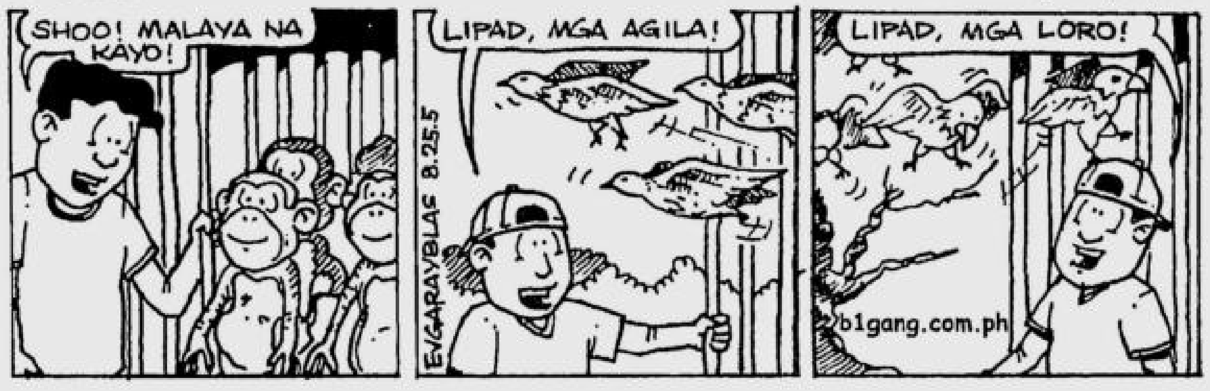
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


UH-HUH. UH-HUH.
UH-HUH.
UH-HUH.
DOODLE DOODLE
BEEP!
HEY! MY PHONE DOODLE MADE IT ON THE FRIDGE!
OH. THAT WAS YOURS?

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SHOO! MALAYA NA KAYO!
LIPAD, MGA AGILA!
EVGARAVBLAS 8.25.5
LIPAD, MGA LORO!
b1gang.com.ph

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cal Ripken Jr., Yasser Arafat, Marlee Matlin, Steve Guttenberg, A.S. Byatt, Stephen Fry

Happy Birthday: You will be precise, forthright and unwilling to back down or bend to other people's demands. The strength and power you've sought your whole life will come from being your own person and doing your own thing. Give yourself a chance. Remember the adage that Rome wasn't built in a day. Your numbers: 7, 13, 21, 27, 34, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Relationships will not run smoothly if you don't have patience. Taking action and making rash decisions will result in emotional mistakes and isolation. You need to let things settle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't take chances while traveling or operating equipment. A female acquaintance may try to spread rumors about you, but be careful how you retaliate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Sudden romantic infatuations may take you by surprise. You can meet new mates and enjoy mental stimulation in worthwhile groups. Proceed with plans to improve your image.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Disharmony at home will lead to stress if you let it. Remain calm, engage in physical activities to relieve tension. A little exercise won't hurt, and you're likely to meet someone interesting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Misconceptions are likely if you discuss personal problems with friends. If you take everything they say to heart, it will lead you astray. Colleagues will be jealous if the boss praises you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Concentrate on future career goals. Put in extra time if it means a promotion or other rewards. Stay away from dubious get-rich-quick schemes. You need to obtain more information.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your emotions will be hit from all sides. You may be looking through rose-colored glasses at your relationship. Don't judge others too quickly. Keep your eyes open and proceed with caution.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Difficulties with in-laws or neighbors can be expected. Don't instigate conflicts by pushing your beliefs on others. Avoid discord; spend time with your lover, not a large crowd.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can spend money on home-improvement projects, but should stick to the set budget and try to do the majority of the work yourself. Put the whole family to work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will gain respect if you offer to put in a few extra hours at work. At home, if you haven't addressed your mate's complaints, the relationship will suffer.

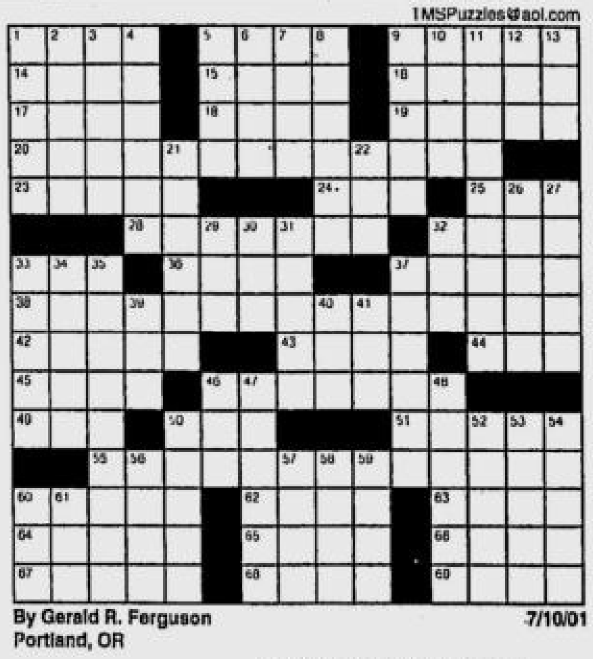
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let others hold you back. Follow through with your beliefs and plans. You need to get out and experience different philosophies.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Uncertainty will mount if you are forced to deal with other people's problems. Focus on immediate family. Take care of business relating to institutions. Doing some research will make you feel better.

Birthday Baby: Your powers of persuasion and ability to get your own way will surprise everyone. You are relentless in all pursuits and courageous in facing opposition.

DAILY CROSSWORD

1MSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR
7/10/01

ACROSS
1 Persian ruler
5 Rosary element
9 Gymnast's feat
14 Swan lady
15 Spout nonsense
16 Fang .
17 Actor Sharif
18 Piccadilly Circus statue
19 Awaken
20 Tommy's epithet
23 Woman's netlike cap
24 Kind of service or gloss
25 Chart
28 Leave bed
32 Director Hooper
33 Assistance
36 Hammer part
37 Caribbean island
38 Sleight-of-hand master
42 Abrasive tools
43 Throw
44 Wash. or Jackson in NYC
45 500-mi. race
46 Sonora snoozes
49 Stretch the truth
50 White-tailed eagle
51 Metrical feet
55 Mann novel, with "The"
60 Bouquet
62 Suspended
63 Cry of distress
64 Tablet choice
65 Imprint clearly
66 Pakistani tongue
67 Traverses
68 Dates regularly
69 Evaluation

DOWN
1 Food for a pig out?
2 Surround
3 Hersey's bell town
4 Port
5 Belgian composer Jacques
6 British peer
7 Declare
8 "I Love Lucy" studio
9 Leather band
10 Needy
11 Windbag
12 Part of TGIF
13 Definite article
21 Takes on as one's own
22 Pimple
26 Top monk
27 Boscs and Bartletts
29 Luau garland
30 Showed the way
31 Chilling
32 Musical syllable
33 Shower month
34 Teheran native
35 Othello's love
37 Achieve
39 Sleeper or mole
40 Boastful talk
41 Adherent: suff.
46 __ Lanka
47 Foot parts
48 Rode the bench
50 Holy smoke!
52 Olympic skier Phil
53 Tight spots
54 Projecting nose
56 Prayer ender
57 Silent
58 At a prior time
59 Expressions of disgust
60 Gore and Capp
61 Grave letters?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

E	T	A	L	■	S	T	U	B	■	D	E	B	U	T
P	A	R	A	■	N	A	T	E	■	E	L	E	N	A
I	R	A	N	■	O	R	A	L	■	F	O	R	T	S
C	O	N	C	E	R	T	H	A	L	L	■	L	I	T
■	■	■	E	M	T	S	■	■	E	A	S	I	L	Y
C	I	T	R	U	S	■	S	T	A	T	E	N	■	■
L	O	E	S	S	■	S	P	I	D	E	R	W	E	B
A	N	N	■	■	B	A	R	N	S	■	■	A	X	E
P	A	N	A	M	A	H	A	T	■	S	P	L	I	T
■	■	I	F	O	N	L	Y	■	W	E	A	L	T	H
M	A	S	C	O	T	■	■	W	R	E	N	■	■	■
A	L	B	■	C	U	R	T	A	I	N	C	A	L	L
R	O	A	C	H	■	I	R	I	S	■	A	L	O	E
C	H	L	O	E	■	G	U	S	T	■	K	E	N	T
H	A	L	O	S	■	S	E	T	S	■	E	X	E	S

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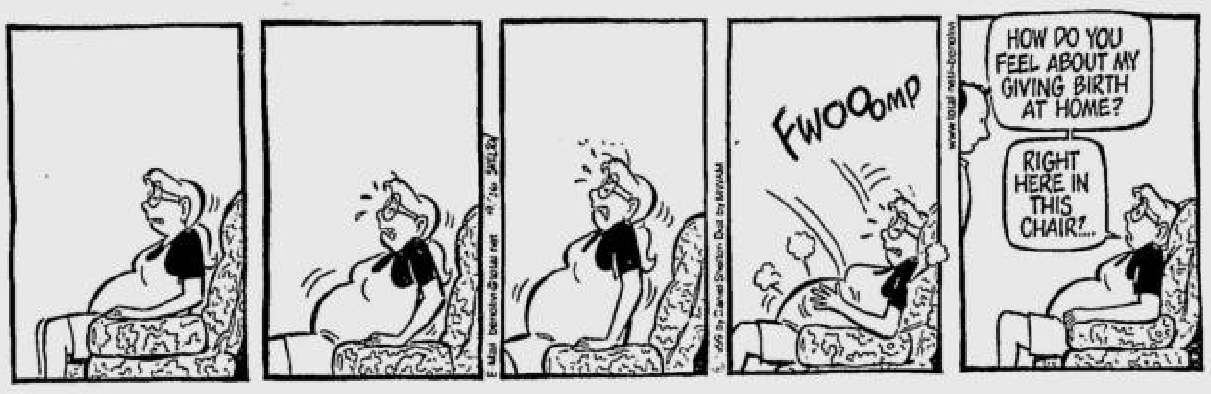
7/10/01

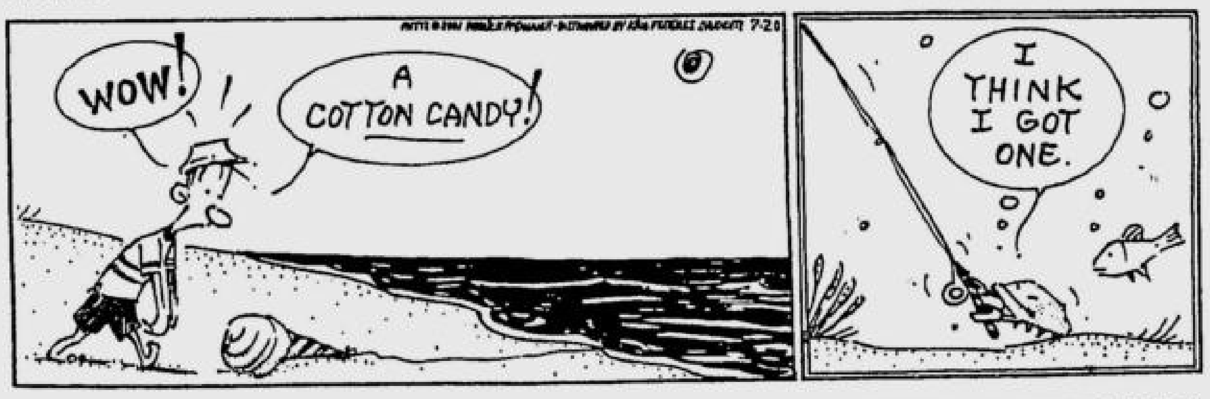
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


FWOOOMP
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MY GIVING BIRTH AT HOME?
RIGHT HERE IN THIS CHAIR?...

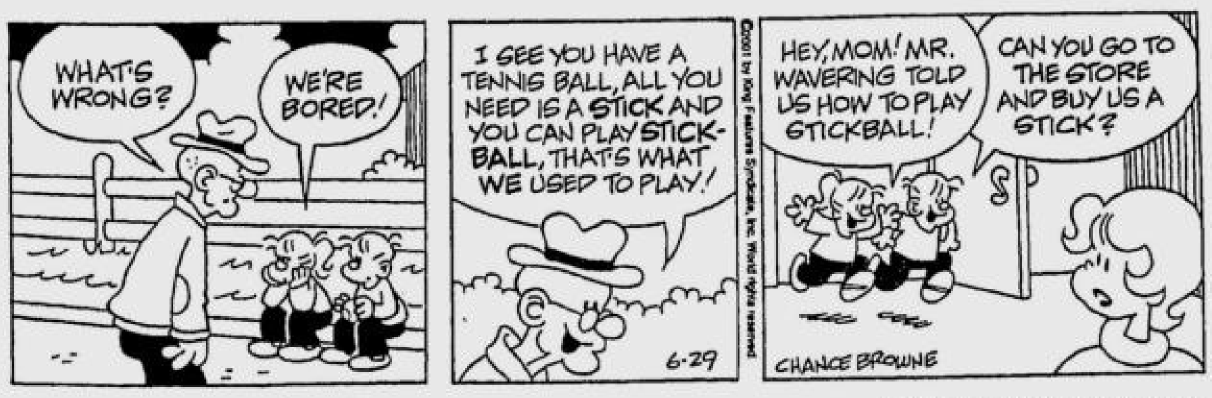
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOW!
A COTTON CANDY!
7-20
I THINK I GOT ONE.

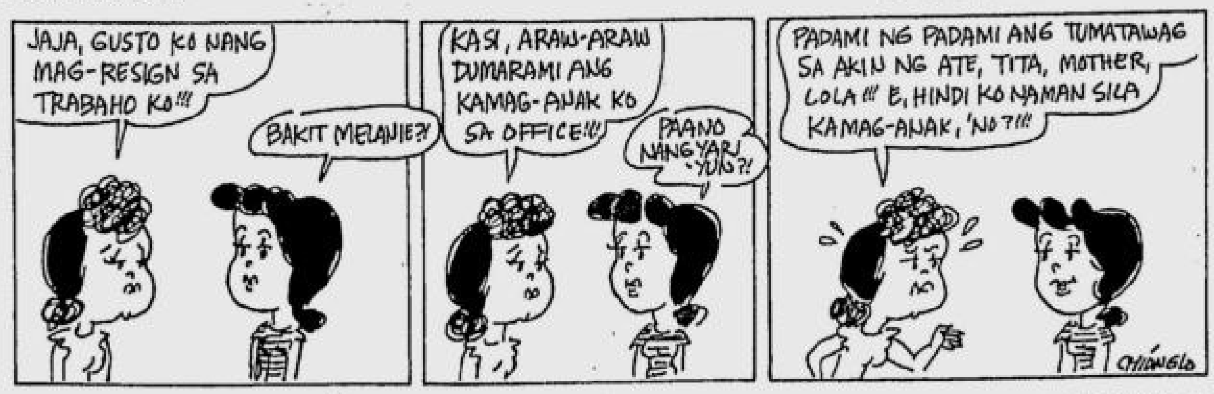
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT'S WRONG?
WE'RE BORED!
I SEE YOU HAVE A TENNIS BALL, ALL YOU NEED IS A STICK AND YOU CAN PLAY STICKBALL, THAT'S WHAT WE USED TO PLAY!
6-29
HEY, MOM! MR. WAVERING TOLD US HOW TO PLAY STICKBALL!
CAN YOU GO TO THE STORE AND BUY US A STICK?
CHANCE BROWNE

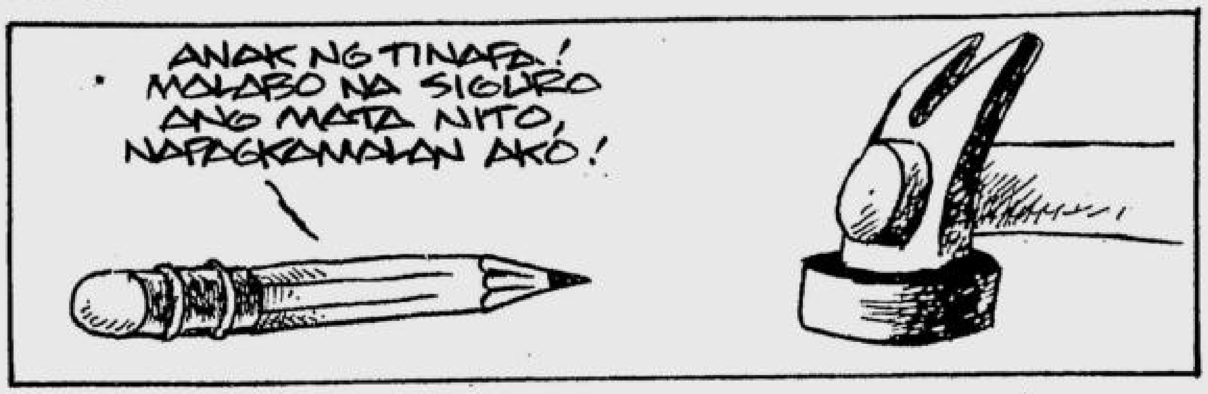
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, GUSTO KO NANG MAG-RESIGN SA TRABAHO KO!!!
BAKIT MELANIE?!
KASI, ARAW-ARAW DUMARAMI ANG KAMAG-ANAK KO SA OFFICE!!!
PAANO NANGYARI 'YUN?!
PADAMI NG PADAMI ANG TUMATAWAG SA AKIN NG ATE, TITA, MOTHER, LOLA!!! E, HINDI KO NAMAN SILA KAMAG-ANAK, 'NO?!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


ANAK NG TINAPA! MALABO NA SIGURO ANG MATA NITO, NAPAGKAMALAN AKO!

Kaffee, tea, or aromatherapy?

BY MARGIE T. ESTRELLA

OWNER Stephanie Chung with celebrity stylist Henri Calayag and the staff during the Inter-Con opening

CALL it the sign of the stressful times. Spas abound in every corner of Metro Manila. These establishments are the crème de la crème of pampering. As much as spas and total beauty centers have been around for quite some time, it is only now that the general public is beginning to take a keen interest in them. Businesswoman Stephanie Chung takes the spa experience even further with Kaffee Salon, which combines hair care with the healing powers of aromatherapy.

Chung spent a lot of time traveling to the United States and Europe. But it was Europe that gave her the idea to put up her salon. She came up with the name Kaffee, meaning coffee in German, since in one salon in Germany, she had seen mini coffee brewers in front of customers so they could brew their own coffee while getting primped and pampered. Chung's salon now serves German specialty coffees. Furthermore, having trained in Paris, Chung wanted to bring back what she learned to the Philippines. She has trained her staff with the help of other styling consultants in styling and hair aromatherapy. She also goes to Europe twice a year to scout for new treatments to add to her growing service menu. She says, "I want to keep up to date with the various hair treatments so I can make it available here as soon as possible." Chung wants her salon to be the "cure for bad hair day."

Tress relief

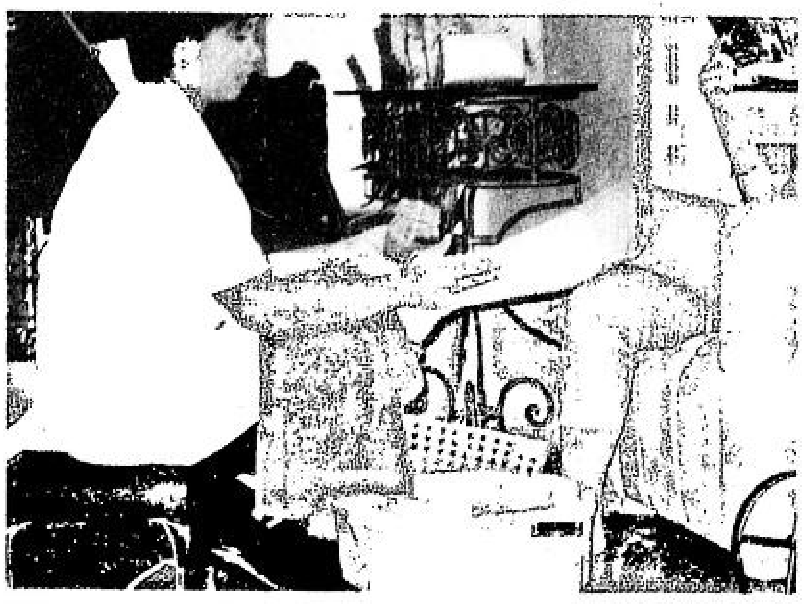
The treatments at Kaffee Salon get to the "root" of the hair problem by deeply nourishing the hair by natural ingredients and invigorating the senses with various scents.

This may sound like a new concept but Chung has been practicing this method of hair care for years. At first glance, the salon may look no different from a regular full service salon. But the results from Kaffee Salon are unique. Each aromatherapy hair treatment has a different outcome. Some of these treatments include Bone Marrow treatments for baby fine hair, Protein treatments to strengthen colored hair, and Chung's favorite treatment, the Chamomile scalp-conditioning treatment, which makes hair shinier and full of bounce. The Chamomile treatment also feels good while it's being applied since it gives the scalp a pleasant tingling sensation.

Other salon services, like hair removal, hand and foot care and styling, are also done in a distinctive manner. For instance, hair can be removed by "threading," a process that uses thread to remove hair from the root. Waxing is also available and the salon has an all-natural recipe for its wax, which is made up of honey and lemon and sugar. This mixture is used to ensure that even the most sensitive skin won't get irritated. Hand and foot massage is also quite methodical since it applies both acupressure and reflexology. Kaffee Salon was also one of the first salons to offer paraffin wax treatments to exfoliate and moisturize skin at the same time. There are also three different kinds of foot care including a Chinese Herbal mixture, which helps increase blood circulation. One of the more interesting services that Kaffee Salon offers is the eyelash perm. Popular in Japan, a gel-like solution is applied to the lashes for 45 minutes. When the process is over, lashes remain curled for up three months. It looks as if one is wearing mascara without the goopy mess that humid weather causes. This service is found only at Kaffee.

> Kaffee Salon at Inter-Con is a spa with a difference. It combines hairstyling with the healing powers of aromatherapy

REMOVE tension from your shoulders while you get an aromatherapy hair treatment.

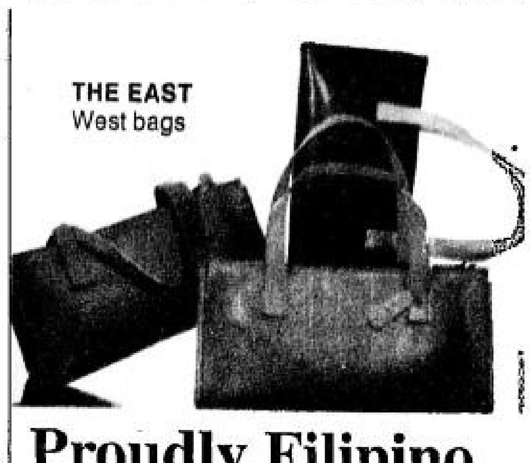


TEA and peppermint foot spa uses European products.

Passion

Chung was lucky in making her salon a reality. Fresh from college and travel, she had no trouble putting it up five years ago. For her, Kaffee Salon is a passion, not a business. She has no intentions of expanding because she wants to keep her salon and her relationship with her clients a more personal one. She also wants to remain attentive to the small details of her salon, from the ingredients to the tools that they use. Finding items for her salon is like a treasure hunt for Chung. She likes going to small, unknown places and coming across exceptional products and ways to treat hair. Due to the boom in spa treatments, Chung has to keep up with the increasing competition and deal with the slackening economy. Chung admits that her regular clients don't go as frequently as they used to for the essential services like haircuts and shampoos. Customers who used to come in almost every day for their usual shampoo and blow-dry don't drop by as often. But the aromatherapy treatments still have the customers coming in. That is, after all, what the salon prides itself in and continues to be the forerunner of one-of-a-kind services.

Kaffee Salon's new location is on the 2/F of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. Call 815-9711, local 794.



THE EAST West bags

Proudly Filipino

ALFA Bags Specialty Shop celebrates its third anniversary this August by unveiling its latest fashionable lines for men and women. It also offers special anniversary promos and freebies.

Alfa stores showcase a complete line of bags and accessories under the categories Travel, Business, Ladies', Easy Go and the latest, Men's Line. It carries bags suitable for every person's lifestyle.

Alfa stores are located at Robinsons Galeria, Festival Supermall and SM Centerpoint.

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How to get a Word Definition:
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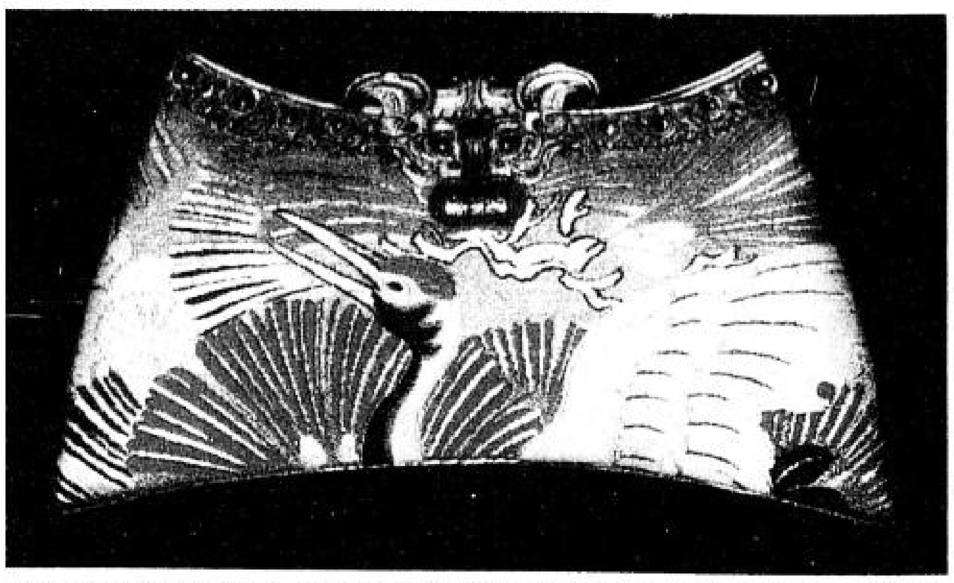
Natori attains an all-time glamour high

JOSIE'S MUSE. It's all in the attitude with this embroidered mesh chemise.



TIBETAN OBI CLUTCH. The bag is inspired by Natori's private collection of Asian antiquities containing textile, kimonos and sahses. The family crest, "*kamon*," is used as a decorative element—in this case, the decorative jade set on hammered brass.

SINCE its inception in 1977, Natori has redefined the rules of dressing. First, business woman Josefina Natori presented the idea of underwear as outerwear. Since black is this season's color, Natori pairs it with rich shades of gold. The look is designed for the bombshell mind. The bra is touted as the accessory of the season and is worn exposed.

The bridge line caters to the inner Lolita. Are you ready? Shades of fuchsia and edgy black are paired with lots of cheeky prints are what's hot. Mesh printed tops and little chemises are in.

After 24 years in the business, Natori launches its accessories line. Inspired by her Asian heritage, Natori produces late day-into-evening bags. They are influenced by Chinese and Japanese architecture and tapestries. The bags are rich and ornate with floral and geometric embroideries, quilting and jewel accents.

"There is a philosophy in the designing of this collection—a combination of both hard and soft, of both yin and yang," she says.

BLACK lace strapless molded cup bra and matching thong

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The store carries sandals and mules with straight, stiletto or conical heels. Toes are square, rounded or straight. Colors range from the most neutral tones to lilac, from beige to pastel for formal wear. Sandals and mules for casual wear are brighter.

ULTRA-SOFT unlined brown and black calf suede makes this updated asymmetric toe light-eva-sole platform slipper a consistent bestseller.

MONOCHROMATIC soft snakeskin slip-on with medium heel comes in multiple shades of beige, gray and moss greens.

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When a picture is worth a thousand developings

Story on page E2

In photography and advertising, Benigno Toda's Studio 58 Lab 10 is the deus ex machina of processing and enhancement

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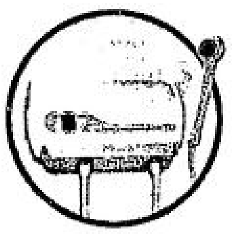
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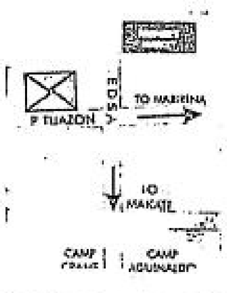
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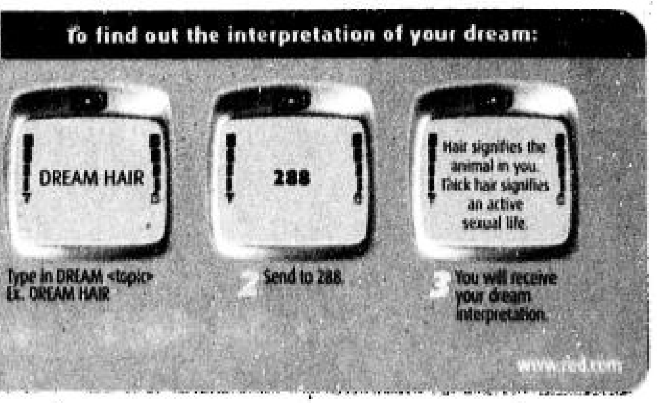
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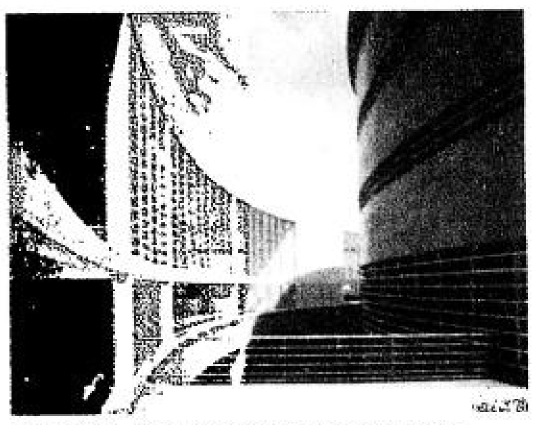
STUDIO shot of Kylene



BEFORE. The building taken by Tom Epperson

THE BUILDING and sky are given warm tones to complement the shade of the satin décolleté dress.

When a picture is worth a thousand developings

By Marge C. Enriquez
Fashion photography and digital imaging by Bobot Meru
CONCEPT AND PICTORIAL DIRECTION
BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS
ARCHITECTURAL AND STILL-LIFE PHOTOS BY TOM EPPERSON

MORE than 10 years ago, professionals in • photography and advertising didn't take Benigno Toda and his studio seriously. His credentials: a photography course in the US, 10 years of running Euphoria with Louie Ysmael, and professional polo. But his friend, Neal Oshima, one of the country's finest, saw Toda's potential in making photos come alive.

"Neal is the reason I exist. He pushed me into this business. He knew I had a heart for processing," says Toda.

Indeed, a photographer may have a keen eye for composition, the best camera, film, lighting equipment and subject. But that's only half of the job. What is a photograph if it isn't processed properly? Many great compositions have been murdered by quick, run-of-the mill processing. The tones are not balanced correctly; the images are fuzzy; the photo paper is cheap. At the other extreme, bad photographs have been corrected or enhanced, thanks to the miracle of laboratory work.

KYLENE is in a floral lavender bandeau in stretched cotton and lavender capri pants in corduroy. The oranges are digitally manipulated for a halo effect.

Without any advertising or editorial, Toda's Studio 58 Lab 10 has become the place to go for superior quality film printing and processing even in the largest formats. Got a problem with your pictures? The studio is like a clinic; Toda and his staffers offer solutions—well, unless the picture is overexposed or it's hopelessly horrible. They can "push and pull" the film development in order to get accurate picture contrast.

"Other shops will say there's something wrong with your camera. I'll tell you the truth about your pictures. I'll tell you if you have a problem—or if you never had one. I offer honest and fair processing," says Toda.

Impressed

Principals from Kodak, the studio's suppliers, were impressed at how Toda could run a successful business despite the fact that the shop has no signage or fliers, and clients have to pass through the security guards at Kasiyahan Homes. Nobody would know that a studio offering world-class services exists there.

Any artist or creative soul would like to have a boss like Toda whose philosophy is "I don't look at the bottom line. It will follow if you give first-class service."

"I don't believe in financing. We are not leveraged at all. It's tough to be in this business but we do it. Our growth is small," he says modestly.

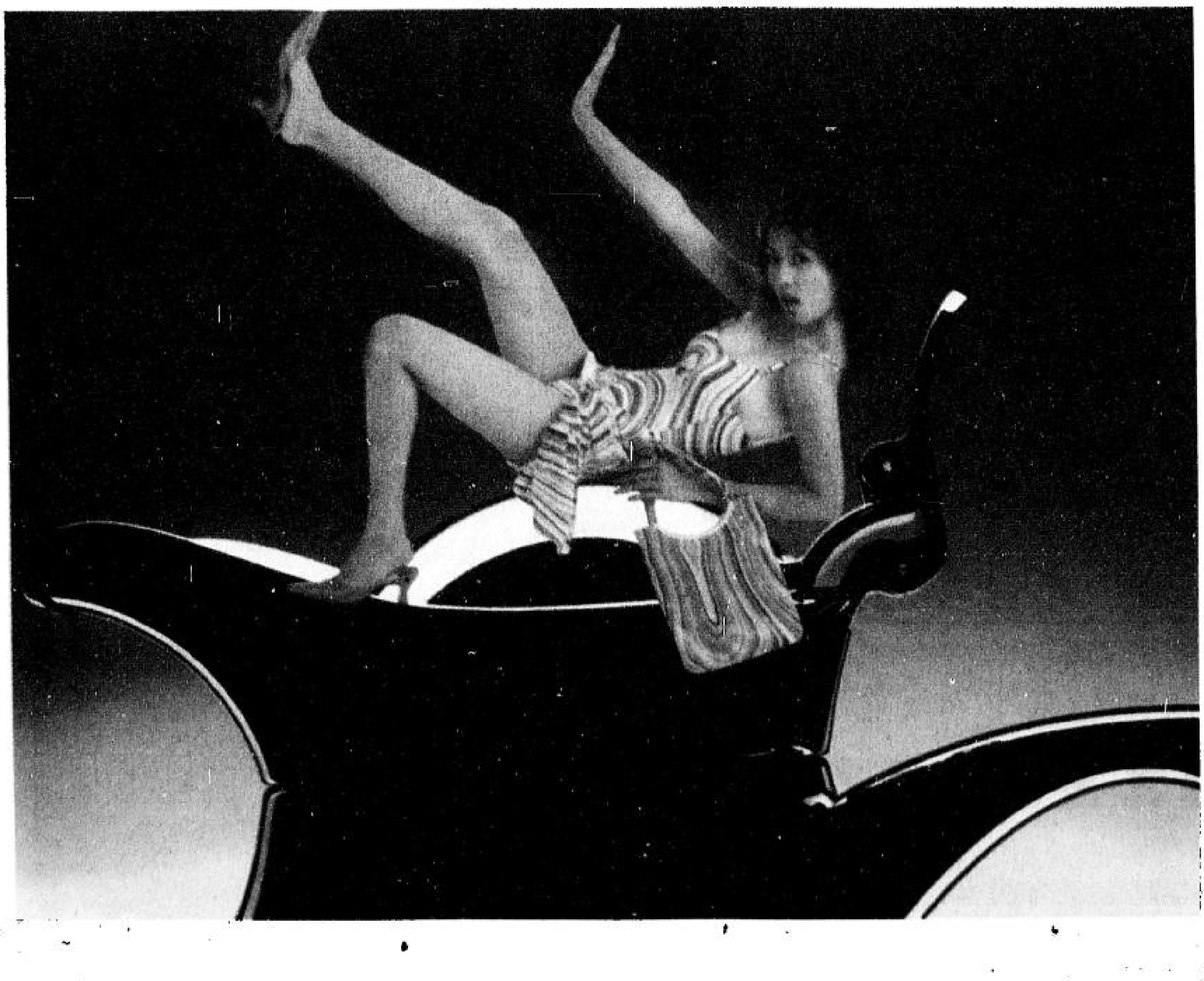
Toda's interest began when his mother gave him a professional camera, a Leica. When his photos were processed, the results were disastrous. The developer blamed it on Toda's camera. He found a technician who could do justice to film processing. He started processing in the bathroom of his home in Forbes Park. Then he was introduced to the rotary processor, the first to be used in the country, and got good results. Soon he was buying the latest equipment. Word got around of the marvelous results top photographers were getting from Toda's studio. He started buying more equipment as the clients asked for enlargers and scanners.

The business was designed for the professional who wants high-quality images, not the disappointing work from one-hour processing photo shop which scrimps on paper and chemicals.

Toda says his business is a marriage of analog (traditional film processing) and digital techniques. The analog procedure (think films and darkrooms) is still better compared with digital because it has more depth of image and a wider range of color.

Toda is not only a hands-on boss who makes it his business to know everything that his staffers do. He meets with clients personally and tours them around his studio, which to uninitiated souls, looks like a rabbit warren what with all the giant techno-toys.

WHEN/p.E6



HAMMING it up over a kettle in a swirl-printed swimsuit with matching silk scarf and leather bag. She's shod in fuchsia leather mules. Kylene was made to lie down in the studio. Her picture was superimposed on the object.

CLOTHES: PAUL SMITH
WOMEN, GLORIETTA 4,
AYALA CENTER

SHOES: LILA ALMARIO
MODEL: KYLENE GANIGAN
OF CAL CARRIE
HAIR AND MAKEUP: JAIME
RUBEN FOR PATRICK ROSAS
MAKEUP: L'OREAL
STYLING: RINA GO

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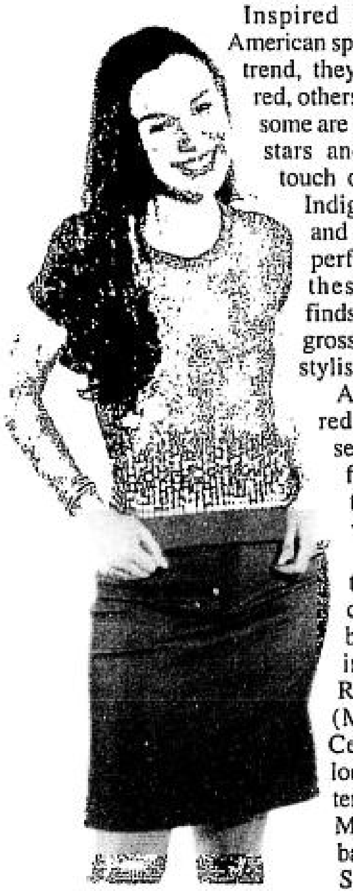
SQUARE neck mini sleeves striped blouse; stretch pants with gross grain belt

Red energizes

THERE'S something about the color red that brings out the fiery side of an individual. The quintessential shade for passion, it is almost always associated with fire, heat and creativity.

Robinsons Department Store (RDS) offers tops in shades of red orange and deep burgundy that blend well with whites, khakis and indigo blues.



SHORT-SLEEVED, round neck T-shirt with glittered print and stretch demin knee-length skirt

Inspired by traditional American sportswear fashion trend, they come in plain red, others in stripes while some are adorned with the stars and stripes for a touch of joie di vivre. Indigo denim jeans and jackets give the perfect contrast to these fire engine finds. Add a striped gross grain belt for a stylish finish.

Also available are red handbags and sexy slides—perfect complements to navys and whites.

Check out these red-hot choices at RDS branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place (Manila, Imus, Cebu and Bacolod), Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis Alabang, Waltermart Sta. Rosa and the newly opened RDS at Robinsons Place Novaliches.

Business as usual

ALL clothing and specialty stores in Greenbelt Shopping Plaza at the basement of The Plaza Building in Greenbelt, Makati are open for business.

Due to ongoing construction work, the stores are accessible through the entrance beside Chow King and another beside the Prince Mediterranean Cuisine and Unica Hija.

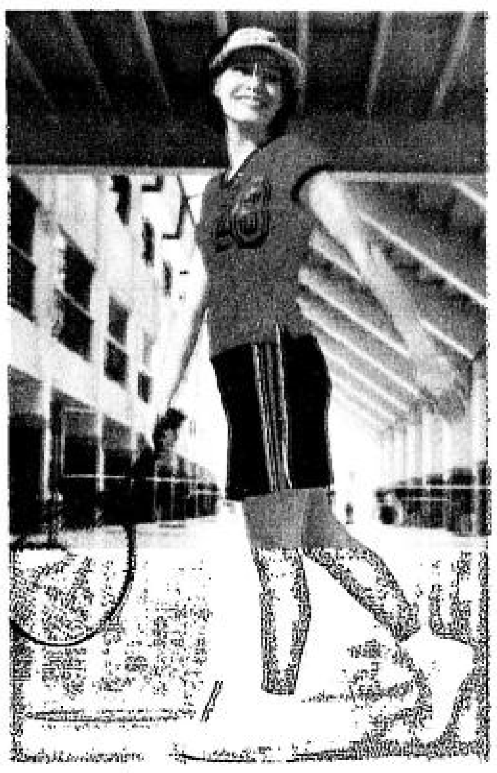
The basement of the Greenbelt Shopping Plaza offers a wide array of tops and bottoms as well as smart accessories. Many working women, in fact, consider it the mecca for chic, day-to-night corporate wear.

Christy Duque-Payne, owner of Space boutique, says the traditional concept of officewear is gradually being replaced. Fuss-less is the current name of the game with jackets that can be zipped up or buttoned down.

WRAP dresses in navy and a feather pattern can be dressed up for a night in town.

Be a good sport

SPORTY becomes stylish as athletic-inspired clothes walk out of the gym into the streets at SM. Take time out for sleek tank tops and tees with halter, strappy and piping details. They make great teammates with skirts, shorts and jogging pants with red and white side stripes. Great for fitness and fashion fun, the collection is available at the Girls Teens Wear Department of all SM stores.



WORKOUT with red V-neck numbered tee and blue skirt with red and white stripes accent

SPORTY-LICIOUS tanks with red pipings and red and white side-striped black joging pants

The latest tearjerkers.

Lazona red onions

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MODELS poised for stardom

PHOTO BY ERNIE SARMIENTO

AUDIE Espino, Eileen Ford, founder of Supermodel search and Ford Agency, husband Jerry and Joey Espino

Supermodel search now also looking for other talents

THE SUPERMODEL search has widened its scope. It is not just a contest for tall girls or mestizas anymore.

Aside from picking the bet to the international contest, it wants to discover a variety of talents that can be fielded to CalCarrie International Philippines' regional partners.

Casting will be held this Sunday at the Samar and Leyte rooms of the Westin Philippine Plaza.

"We are not just looking for a representative but also new talents to market in the Asian region through our network," says Audie Espino, the chief operations officer of CalCarrie International Philippines.

Pan-Asian look

Espino and his brother Joey, who is president of CalCarrie Phil., formed Runway Productions, which holds the Supermodel franchise. Runway also produces special events, fashion shows and specials.

"When we were young, we were part of a big group with Louie Mamengo and casting agents. We even apprenticed with designers. We saw the modeling world and fashion design until Joey became a producer and director. He had a problem getting full-time models. Most commercial models couldn't do runway. Runway models couldn't be marketed in print and TV commercials. In those days, no legitimate agency covered everything. If we wanted to put up an agency, it would need to have an international affiliation," says Espino.

CalCarrie International Philippines is officially 7 years old. During the first four years, the Espinos were building the organizational structure and testing the market.

"I came here for systems and procedures and to execute them. Joey discovers and grooms talents. We need to set international standards. We need to hone the talent of Filipinas. They are known for their Pan-Asian look," says Espino.

To make it internationally, Filipinas must go by the rules of the world, such as being punctual, assertive and self-confident.

Success stories

Previously, models relied on magazine clippings when they looked for jobs. Now the agency insists on set cards and portfolios and gets talent fees. Upstarts normally get bookings in women's or teen magazines. The seasoned models eventually get into ads and commercials.

Today there are nearly three dozen model and talent agencies in the country that aim to set international standards and working ethics.

Jojo Zabarte and Silverstar Communications previously handled the Supermodel search. They gave up the franchise when it was no longer viable for them. For CalCarrie and Runway Productions, the Supermodel Search was in line with their business. This is the third year that Runway Productions has held the franchise.

The Supermodel contest opens up a lot of possibilities. Through a nationwide search, it can tap a pool of talents in the provinces. If there's a show in Cebu or Davao, it can use the local models instead of flying in girls from Manila.

The search has also given jobs to winners and finalists. Some inquiries are made through the website of CalCarrie International Phil.

A German clothing company inquired about Supermodel 2000 Joan de Mesa after seeing her photo on the Web. Niña Naval, 1999 Supermodel Phil. Winner, got jobs in Singapore. Verns Buckley, a Supermodel finalist, was flown to Bangkok by a prospective client for a skin-care commercial. Emille Espino is being considered for a hair-care ad in Hong Kong.

Although Diane Sison is only 5'4", short by modeling standards, a Japanese firm has put her in its shortlist. The fact that they were being considered already said something about the international potential of Filipino models. Buckley, who is only 17, is getting jobs in Australia. Natasha Malthe got a job in Johnson & Johnson's international campaign for its PH5 Body Wash.

Reality TV

The search is open to aspirants as young as 14. In Western countries, girls are already mature at that age. In the Philippines, 14-year-olds will be given some opportunities, keeping in mind that they have to finish high school.

Sports World Media, an international production company, did a series on the rise of a fashion model, from the aspiration of a youngster to winning the Supermodel contest and getting jobs. Produced in London, the documentary revealed how people from all fields, including friends and family of the aspirants, viewed the industry.

The search has been found to lead to surprising results. In Australia, for instance, every state where there was a go-see, a modeling jargon for audition, more than 500 applicants showed up in each state. The organizers were curious about what type of girls would want to be models.

There is a global move to produce a similar series, especially in countries that hold the franchise.

The Philippines would certainly make good material.

Marge C. Enriquez

The screening will be held in three places—Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan in Cebu on Aug. 25, Westin Philippine Plaza on Aug. 26. Call Runway Productions at 844-0467 and 753-3688.

The latest from the net.

Freshly caught Tilapia

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Gulp, the '80s are back

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez

Dust those shoulder pads, resurrect those chunky earrings and replay the Culture Club's 'I'll Tumble 4 Ya.' The tackiest decade in fashion is back with a vengeance

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

AS far as I can remember, the '80s never really died here. Radio stations continue to play tunes from even the most obscure '80s bands like China Crisis and Lotus Eaters. Not just on those retro days either. Most times I tune into the channel on cable that shows the schedule of the day's programs I hear nostalgic tunes from General Public or Echo and the Bunnymen. So New Wave lives—at least in the Philippines.

Imagine my amazement when on a road trip from San Francisco to Berkeley last June I heard nonstop '80s hits on the radio. Even in stores like Banana Republic and Urban Outfitters, '80s tunes were playing. Furthermore, the Go-go's have just released a new album, Rick Springfield was in a recent credit card advertisement, and the other night Depeche Mode was the musical guest on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." What gives?

They say that music is one step ahead of fashion. Case in point, radio stations were playing '70s songs long before the '70s retro craze hit the runways (platform shoes, bellbottoms, etc.). So this resurgence of '80s nostalgic hitting the airwaves could only mean one thing. Gulp, the '80s are back. Yes, what many consider the tackiest decade, is the next big trend.

Encompassing

First of all, what exactly is "New Wave"? It's a term that was used to refer to the post-punk bands of the '70s. It encompassed a whole range of types of music from Synthpop (Human League, Soft Cell), New Romantic (Ultravox, Spandau Ballet), Ska (Madness, The Specials) and even Rockabilly (Stray Cats). Eventually, it evolved to generally mean music in the early '80s. The New Wave era was also the most significant "British Invasion" since the Beatles with a whole onslaught of European bands following closely at their heels. New Wave greatly influenced the "look" of the times mainly because its beginnings coincided with the birth of MTV. The new music videos had intoxicating visuals that had never been seen before. In fact the colorful fashion, makeup and narrative videos made even insignificant bands larger than life. Cross-dressing Boy George of the Culture Club, Cyndi Lauper's funky, outrageous bubble-gum look, and of course the lace and crucifix-laden Madonna were all trend-setters for a generation. This also could explain why the '80s had the highest percentage of one-hit wonders.

The New Wave craze hit at the height of my high school days. Is it time to pore over old photographs and reconstruct old looks? Let's see: pumps, miniskirts, later extra-long skirts, funky earrings, punk looks, lots of accessories—we were basically clones of the Go-go's, Madonna, and quite a few got into the look of Robert Smith of The Cure (kabuki makeup and really gothic looking). The guys had spiky hair (tons of gel) and wore really thin ties to the prom. For a real look into the era, rent a couple of John Hughes movies ("Pretty in Pink," "The Breakfast Club" and "Some Kind of Wonderful" come to mind).

So, does this mean that we're going to see skinny ties, spandex and, heavens forbid, acid wash? Well, not really. Most trend reports say that this '80s resurrection is a little less tacky. It is more of an inspired trend rather than an all-out resurrection.

Stiletto comeback

According to the New York Times, jeans from Jordache, Gloria Vanderbilt and Sergio Valente are back in fashion. The "Dominatrix" look that Azzedine Alaia started in the '80s can be seen in recent collections of Helmut Lang, Gucci, Versace and Donna Karan. The stiletto heels are back in a big way and they say that come September, flats will be totally out. Even men's fashion salutes the '80s with the return of pointed shoes. Frilly, puffy, new romantic blouses are also hitting the runways, and the crucifix is making a comeback as a hip accessory. The recent logo revolution is a nod to the "greed is good" era of "Dynasty." Chunky earrings, waist-cinching belts and multiple rows of pearls seem to be in fashion, too. Just a few months ago, everything was preppy with pastels and polo shirts all over the place. Remember that preppy did precede new wave in the past, too.

Even makeup, which enjoyed seasons of fresh-faced chic, is embracing the accentuated look. Think smoky black eye shadow, red lipstick, a very matte face and contoured cheeks. Think Robert Palmer girls (those from his "Simply Irresistible" video that were reincarnated on "Ally McBeal"). Even big hair, though not of the Ivana Trump variety, is back. Basically this '80s revival in makeup has a sleek modern edge.

It seems the decade of bad taste is coming back to haunt us in a big way—hopefully sans hairspray and giant shoulder pads. The desire to look back rather than forward baffles me. Maybe it is the only way to go as we sit and kill time waiting for the next new thing. Old film remakes never do well. Are fashion and music exempt from this dictum?

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

The biggest pricks.

Davao fresh Durian

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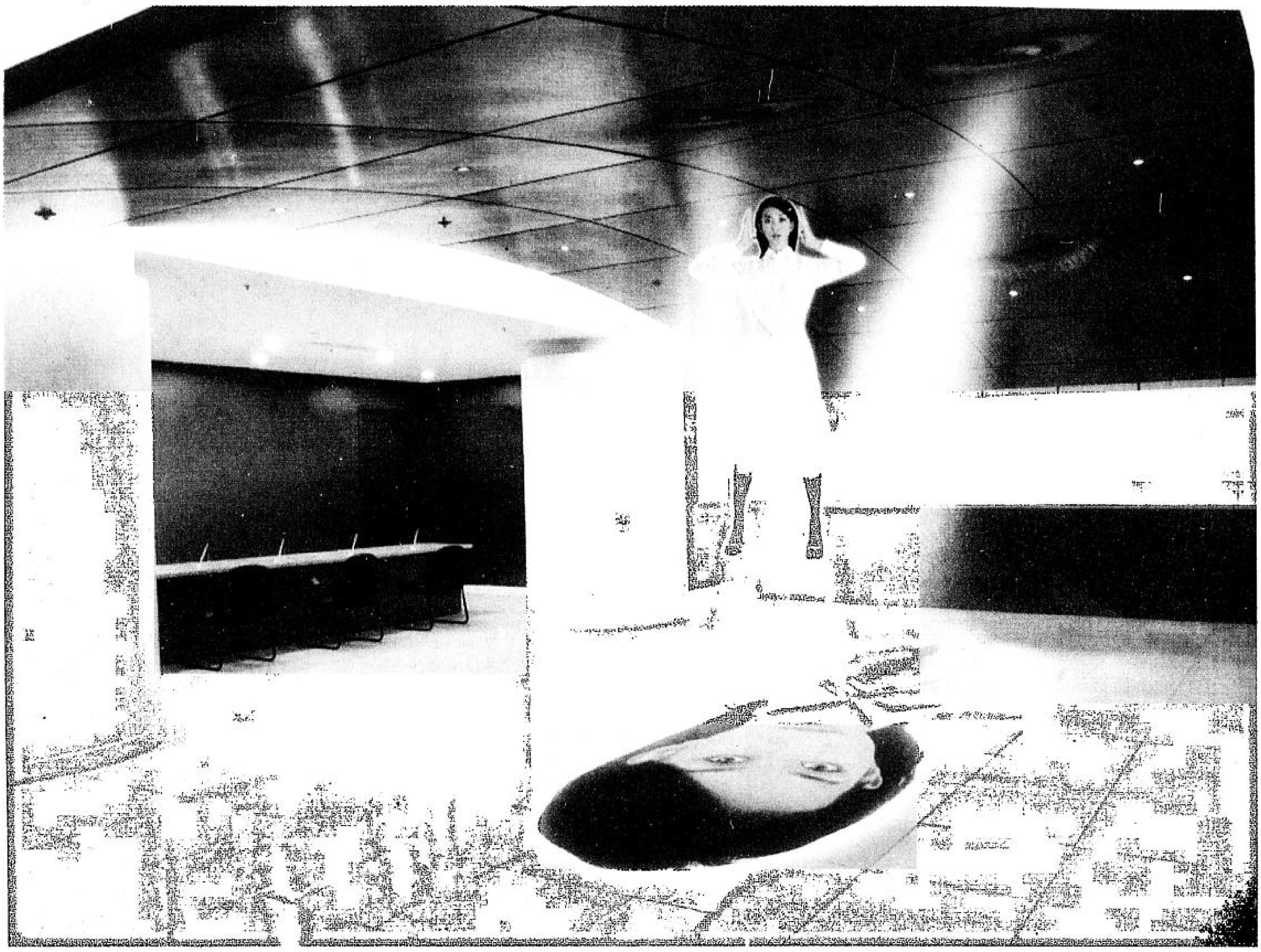


SURREAL. Kylene in a chiffon blouse and skirt with camel wedge leather slip-ons, floats in this aiport photo. Her face and eyes have been routed out. Rays of light coming from her pupils are part of the special effect.

I don't look at the bottom line. It will follow if you give first-class service.
—Bengy Toda

When a picture is worth a thousand developings

(From page E2)

The owner has invested in the best equipment, such as a drum scanner for sharp pictures. The shop has been known to have the largest in everything—the largest enlarger, the largest slide processing dip-and-dunk machine in Southeast Asia, which can convert more than a hundred rolls of film in an hour, the largest drum scanner and enlarger for blow-ups. Text can be superimposed digitally instead of manually over the image in less time.

Previously, photographers would send delicate processing jobs to Hong Kong, which would take four days. Now, they can save time and airfare by sending the work to his lab.

MYSTERIOUS in a black, rayon pin-striped suit. This image is an integration of a black-and-white photograph with additional color and a dropout of the chair.

TAKEN from a top angle, Kylene wears a light-blue shirt with flower and light-blue overlap in crinkled cotton. The photographer kept in mind that it would be superimposed on the glasses.

"We calibrate everything we use," says Toda. To determine the accuracy of the color, a test strip of the negative is read by the X-Rite Color Densitometer, which tells the state of the processing, the color speed, the mixture of the chemicals—all of which become the basis for a sharp digital image. The Densitometer can do what the human eye can't. It can determine if the color tones are off.

A few years ago, nobody wanted to gamble on the Light Value Technology Rhino film recorder which offers the sharpest and highest resolution in slides and color negatives. Toda took the risk and now it's giving him good business.

For large formats in black-and-white or color, for digital services, such as film output and recording, scanning, image enhancing and manipulation, back-lit displays, everybody goes to him.

Advanced

The workstation has one of the most advanced computers. For the INQUIRER's fashion pictorial with digital imaging, creative director Tonton Santos sourced images. Stylist Rina Go picked the new line of clothes from Paul Smith. Photographer and computer artist Bobot Meru composed the shots of model Kylene Ganigan, keeping in mind that her pictures will be superimposed or digitally manipulated over the shoots. Making a seamless image takes hours. But perfection or near-perfection is the studio's standard.

The paper on which the images are printed is of superior quality. When Studio 58 Lab 10 submitted the digitally manipulated images of our fashion pictorial, they were printed on metallic paper. It has a brilliance that gives that laminated look. This paper is good for printing interiors or images with lots of details as they come out sharper.

Transparencies are packaged in imported plastic and acid-free jacket, which is covered in the printing cost. It's worth the investment.

"The images are archival. They last forever," says Toda.

With a staff of six led by Meru and business manager Rommel Valera, Studio 58 Lab 10 serves more than a hundred discriminating clients that include the likes of Oshima, Tom Epperson, Francis Rivera, Lita Puyat, Wig Tysmans, Patrick Uy and Time magazine's Robin Moyer. Photographers from National Geographic have their rolls tested here. Small agencies with blue-chip accounts send their work there.

Toda explains the importance of investing in the best equipment because photographers send their work to a lab that is dependable, consistent in its output and minimizes accidents. Cheap equipment can lead to "catastrophic" accidents, he says.

The biggest challenge is trying to please his customers, which is next to impossible. Some clients will not take responsibility for their own shortcomings and will blame the lab for the condition of their images.

"We take it with a grain of salt. We explain to them. We have a full-time chemist so we have control over the chemicals," he says.

"It's not an easy business. But if they can do it in the US and in Hong Kong, why can't we do it here?" Toda is out to prove that the Filipino can.

A different kind of loosening up

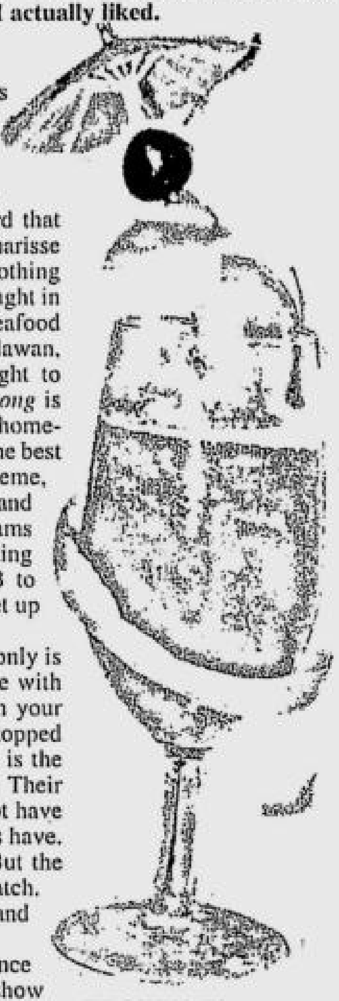
By Juana R. Manahan

IN THE RECENT months, going out has been quite a chore. The crime rate has soared so high that it's scary to go out. Events aren't quite what they used to be. The rave parties are all alike now: loud music, overpopulated. Gone are the days when it was the objective to be seen at an event. I remember them to be a compromise of sorts: you went to a raucous and crowded venue with your friends to dance and hear the music; getting a drink would take forever aside from being expensive. The sponsors knew everyone would be thirsty anyway and wouldn't mind paying through the nose despite the long wait. At the party itself, people you didn't know, from all walks of life surrounded you. After going to a rave, people would look for a 24-hour food station to satisfy their hunger, the usual fare being *siomai* and *goto*. It was fun to do that for a while, but not forever. Soon, I longed for a place where all the elements I looked for were combined: good music, good food and the company of people that I actually liked.

Relaxed, homey

Taza Bar and Grill satisfied my taste buds and calmed my social anxieties. The atmosphere of Taza is homey. It offers a combination of the relaxed feeling of one of those open-air grills and the good music and party atmosphere of a rave. Taza is an Indian word that means fresh. The name appealed to owners Charisse Santillan and Jibby Tinio, although there is nothing Indian about their seafood. The seafood is brought in from Navotas, the point of entry for all seafood entering Metro Manila from places such as Palawan, Masbate and Jolo. The supply that is brought to Taza is the morning's catch. Even their *bagoong* is made from freshly caught baby shrimps and is homemade, without any food coloring. (It's one of the best *bagoong* I ever tasted). Taza has a nautical theme, with muslin as makeshift sails on the rafters, and real fishing boat lights. The shelves and beams they use actually come from real wooden fishing boats. The music at Taza ranges from R&B to hiphop to dance music. After eating, diners get up from their tables and dance.

Taza boasts quite a selection of food. Not only is it freshly caught, but the dishes that are made with them are mouth-watering. It's a step up from your regular *ihaw-ihaw*. They offer baked clams topped with garlic and cheese. My personal favorite is the *kilawin* that is super sour and super garlicky. Their salmon and tuna sashimi is fresh, and does not have the fishy taste of raw seafood that other places have. These seem like ordinary everyday dishes. But the big difference lies in the freshness of the catch. Taza means fresh, says their outdoor signage, and fresh it is.



FROZEN Blue Hawaiian

"DANCE Till You Drop" fashion dance party

THE AUTHOR with Doby Atilano, Jibby Tinio and Charisse Santillian

The Taza offers straight dinner with the casual ambience of a rave

Last weekend, Taza held the last leg of "Dance Till You Drop: A Fashion Dance Party." The show had been touring all over bars in Manila. The tour featured designers Alex de la Vega, Tristian Yap, Olan Roque, Ana Felix and Haig Gomez. The clothes featured were a selection of club wear and a touch of Muslim-Filipino ethnicity. Usually, events like these would be stuffy and smokey, but in Taza, it was completely relaxed and comfortable. The producers of the show certainly made use of the existing decoration of Taza. Before the show, two stagehands were gluing mirrors to the muslin sails that draped from the rafters. This was a different fashion experience. As the models walked up and down the makeshift runway, I sipped my drink and munched on seafood.

Retro

The event seemed to be a re-hash of the '70s lunchtime fashion shows at the Hyatt..From what I am told of those shows, the then up-and-coming designers such as Gang Gomez, Inno Sotto, Chito Vijandre and Auggie Cordero, who are today's fashion's hall of famers, monks or lifestyle arbiters, had their beginnings there. In the '70s, those designers aimed for high-fashion, Filipino-inspired looks. The movers and shakers who attended the shows were, more often than not, yuppies. At the fashion show in Taza, there were attempts at Filipino-inspired outfits, but on a more casual and wearable strain. The Filipino looks by designer Tristian Yap were Muslim-inspired, using the traditional Muslim textiles, but made into skirts and shirts and blouses.

"Dance Till You Drop: A Fashion and Dance Party" has been in places like Mars and several discos. However, I cannot imagine that the atmosphere and the crowd was as relaxed as it was in Taza.

From this experience, my sniff in the air is that finally, evening happenings are veering toward a sense of order; apart from the loud music and the head-banging, there is something substantial to look forward to, something to talk about. It's not about drowned-out, half-finished sentences about ... nothing.

THE MUSLIM-INSPIRED keyhole dress is purloined

It's raining colors

FORGET about the gloominess of the rainy season. Wear bright and feel light with Hang Ten Philippines' collection of colorful and playful casual clothing.

"Dark-colored getups that complement to the wet weather, as tradition dictates, are totally out of fashion. What's in is bringing vigor back in the melancholy of the atmosphere," Hang Ten Philippines says.

Brave the rain with confidence by sporting trendy Hang Ten denim jacket over printed and plain Hang Ten tees which come in maroon, pink, baby and navy blue, apple green, orange and yellow.

Match these Hang Ten tops with equally fashionable cropped pants and shorts for dashing guys, and capri, boot-cut and techno-fit pants and damdiggers for attractive gals.

Get your feet soaked wearing Hang Ten sandals or slippers. Don't forget to put on that classic Hang Ten cap or fisherman's cap on your head.

Aside from a wide selection of stylish yet practical casual apparels for the rainy season, Hang Ten is a haven of fashion accessories—scents, bags, shoes and belts in creative designs and shades.

There are 31 Hang Ten branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (Ayala Center), Iloilo, Davao, SM Pampanga and Gaisano Davao. Loyal patrons may likewise anticipate the opening of four new Hang Ten branches in Robinsons Place Pasig and Iloilo City, Pacific Mall in Legaspi City and in ShoeMart (SM) Davao.

TEXAS TEXQUILA
EXPERTLY TEXAS BREWED
TEXQUILA
CERVEZA • BIRRA • BEER
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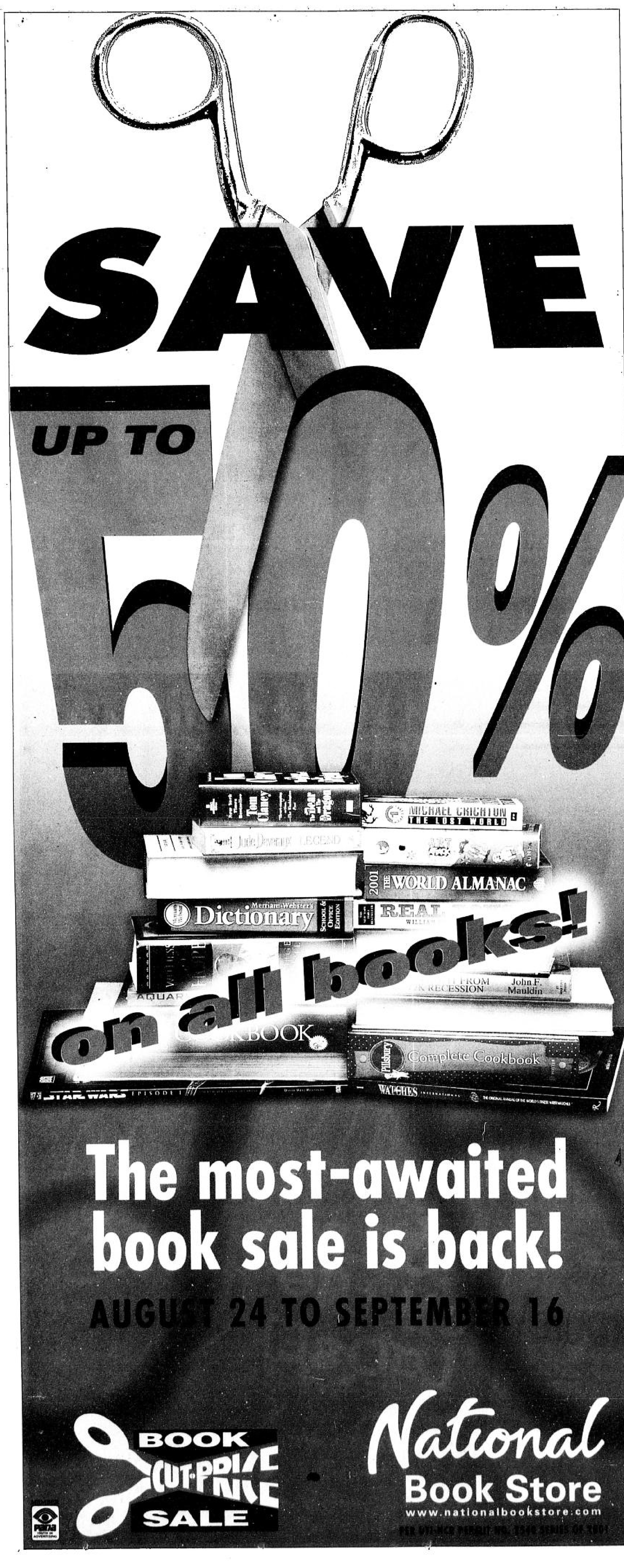
'QUILA ON THE LOOSE!
The sweet kick of Tequila
+ the smoothness of beer
= a Party drink
like no other!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UP TO 50%
on all books!
The most-awaited book sale is back!
AUGUST 24 TO SEPTEMBER 16
BOOK CUT-PRICE SALE
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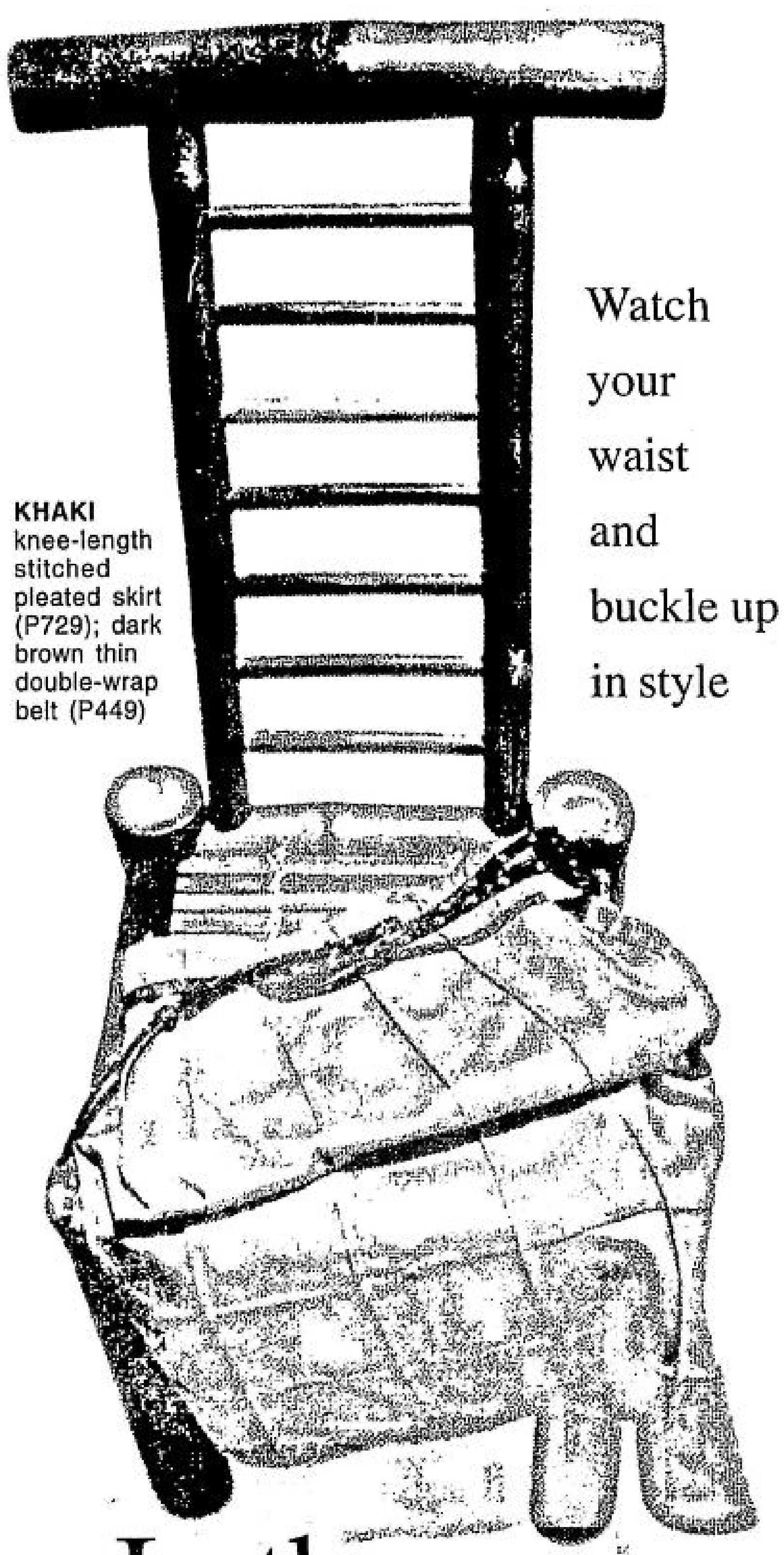
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. [illegible] SERIES OF 2001

In the fashion belt

Watch your waist and buckle up in style



KHAKI knee-length stitched pleated skirt (P729); dark brown thin double-wrap belt (P449)

By Camille T. Cruz
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

WHAT we wear around our waist is as important as what we wear on our shoulders or feet, that is, if you choose to draw attention to your waistline. One of my favorite accessories, in fact, was a fabricated belt, 2½ inches in width, tied in a tiny knot after one wrap around the waist; it was a Vicky and Letlet Veloso trademark.

Nowadays belts come either thick and studded or thin and low-slung. They may also come as a built-in elastic waistband substituting for a belt.

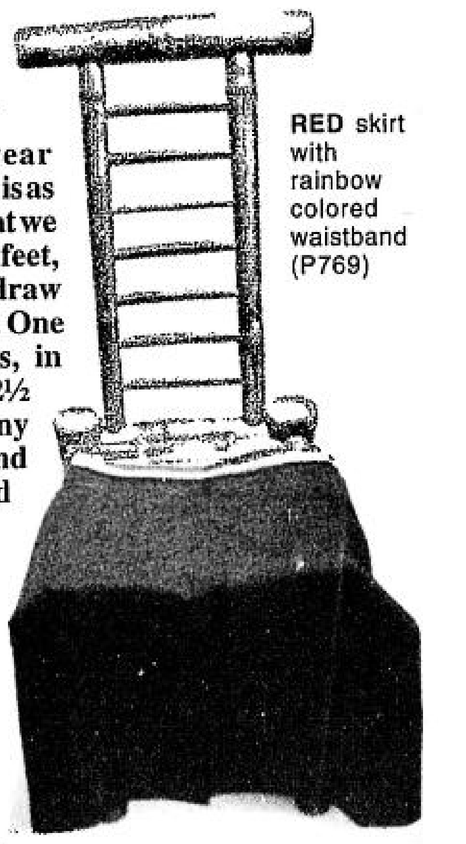
If you have a flat stomach, low-slung belts are best for you. The studded or bullet-hole look is not too punk for you. If mixed well, the look could work for you.

A denim skirt worn with a low-slung thick belt is so "now." It creates a silhouette from the past with a touch of the new. It is hip and comfortable. It can be worn with a pleated halter top that is actually a very tricky piece to wear. It is not recommended for the top heavy. It will magnify an already large bust, especially if the fabric is stiff-pleated.

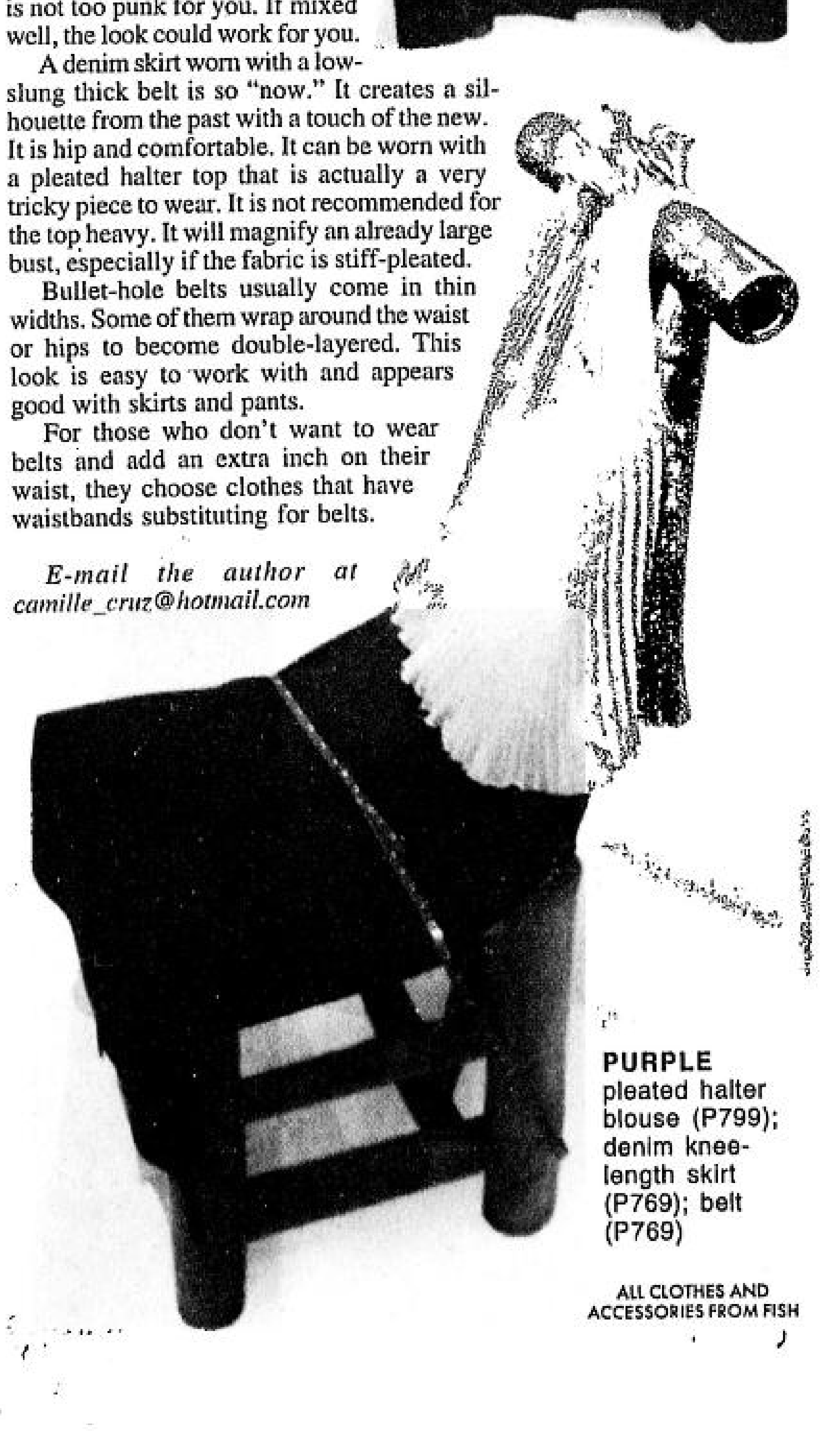
Bullet-hole belts usually come in thin widths. Some of them wrap around the waist or hips to become double-layered. This look is easy to work with and appears good with skirts and pants.

For those who don't want to wear belts and add an extra inch on their waist, they choose clothes that have waistbands substituting for belts.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com



RED skirt with rainbow colored waistband (P769)



PURPLE pleated halter blouse (P799); denim knee-length skirt (P769); belt (P769)

ALL CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES FROM FISH

ESLA EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

Pioneering appliance store still knows what the 'masa' wants

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

LONG before huge malls sprouted in Metro Manila and in nearby towns and other urban centers throughout the country, there was ESLA. Long before these malls started offering appliance sales, discounts and premium item giveaways, and long before credit cards offered easy installment plans for big-ticket items such as appliances to cardholders, there was Emilio S. Lim Appliances.

Esla, for as long as anyone could remember, has been a trusted name in low-priced appliances and easy installment plans. In fact, it pioneered the easy installment plans.

Esla, as we can say with certainty the company that started it all, is celebrating its 34th year.

Roberto R. Lim, general manager and chief executive officer of Esla, attributes its low-priced appliances to lower overhead costs because of cheaper site rentals. He stressed that tenant rates in malls are much higher, resulting in higher overhead costs that ultimately translate to higher-priced appliances.

"Our prices are lower by as much as 4 percent compared to those found in malls," Lim says. Pricing, he says, drive most customers to Esla.

He adds that whatever the company saves in operating costs they pass on to customers as discount.

"It's also a matter of providing better customer service and giving away premium items to customers as giveaways," relates Lim. It's what Esla has been doing during its anniversary month year after year.

The easy installment plan was envisioned to truly cater to the needs of the Filipino masses. Emilio S. Lim, Roberto's father and the company's president, wanted as many people as possible to have appliances.

He understood their plight, especially during hard times. The masa couldn't just come up with funds to purchase appliances, which over the years have become a necessity more than a luxury.

"Our strength lies in our customers, we have generated enough business because we have a lot of repeat customers," Lim says.

The concern for the needs of the company's target market has become its marketing strategy. The policy was proven right, creating solid patronage and a loyal customer base. Esla has even created buyers who always come back with new clients tagging along.

"I always tell my people that the best way to advertise our company and our service is through repeat customers. When they are satisfied, they would tell their friends, neighbors, loved ones, and they would always come back. Word-of-mouth is the most important thing," Lim says, adding that Esla would also advertise in print primarily to announce arrival of new products and promotions being offered.

At present, almost 80 percent of Esla's customer base belong to the C-D class—the true masses. This sits well with Esla's vision of making more people afford to buy their own appliances.

"We have also put up a hotline for service last year for the benefit of our customers," relates Lim.

The hotline is for people to call in their service problems and to address customer

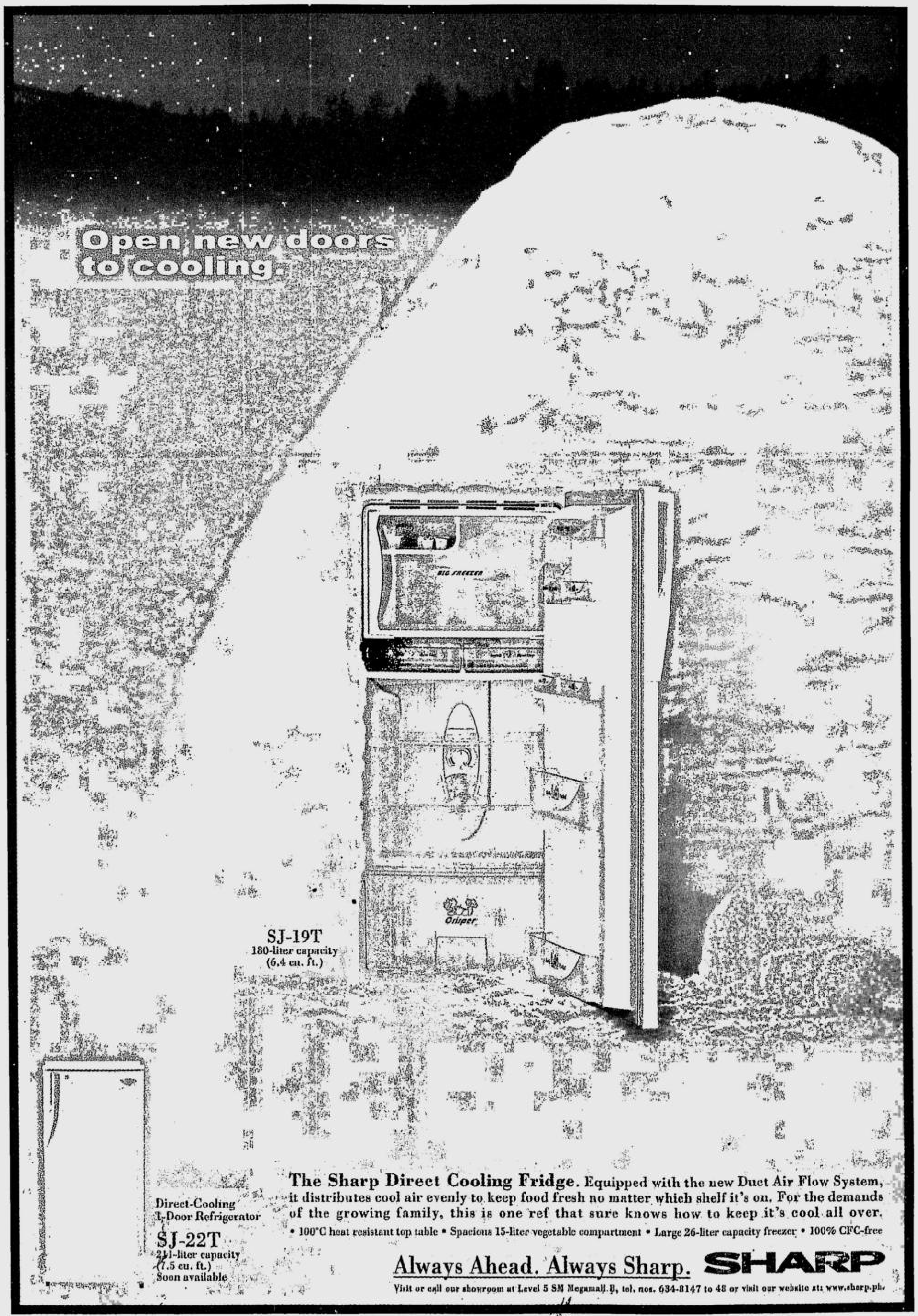
PIONEERING/ F3

THE BIRTH OF MANY ESLA'S

ESLA-MAKATI	AUGUST '67
ESLA-CUBAO	AUGUST '70
ESLA-CALOOCAN	AUGUST '71
ESLA-MARIKINA	AUGUST '73
ESLA-PARAÑAQUE	AUGUST '75
ESLA- PASIG 1	AUGUST '77
ESLA-ALABANG	FEBRUARY '90
ESLA-MEYCAUYAN	AUGUST '94
ESLA-BAESA	OCTOBER '94
ESLA-IMUS	DECEMBER '94
ESLA-FAIRVIEW	FEBRUARY '95
ESLA-PROPER	JULY '95
ESLA-BIÑAN	OCTOBER '95
ESLA-SAN PEDRO	OCTOBER '95
ESLA-CAINTA MARCOS H-WAY	DECEMBER '95
ESLA-BALAGTAS	AUGUST '96
ESLA-MUÑOZ	SEPTEMBER '96
ESLA-PASIG 11 ROTONDA	OCTOBER '96
ESLA-STA. ROSA	NOVEMBER '96
ESLA-DASMA 1 PALAPALA	DECEMBER '96
ESLA-MALOLOS	JANUARY '97
ESLA-BALIWAG	FEBRUARY '97
ESLA-STA. MARIA	APRIL '97
ESLA-ANTIPOLO	JULY '97
ESLA-ESPAÑA	AUGUST '97
ESLA-CALAMBA	SEPTEMBER '97
ESLA-TANAY	OCTOBER '97
ESLA-GMA	NOVEMBER '97
ESLA-APALIT PAMPANGA	NOVEMBER '97
ESLA-DASMA 11	DECEMBER '97
ESLA-SAN FERNANDO	JULY '98
ESLA-LIPA	AUGUST '98
ESLA-SAN PABLO	FEBRUARY '99
ESLA-TANAUAN	MAY '99
ESLA-LAGRO	JUNE '99
ESLA-TAYTAY	AUGUST '99
ESLA-ANGELES CITY PROPER	APRIL 2000
ESLA-CAINTA ORTIGAS	APRIL 2000
ESLA-KALENTONG	MAY 2000
ESLA-BATANGAS CITY	JUNE 2000
ESLA-BINAKAYAN KAWIT CAVITE	OCTOBER '00
ESLA-ROSARIO CAVITE	JANUARY '01
ESLA-SUCAT PARAÑAQUE (NEW)	FEBRUARY '01
ESLA-FAIRVIEW II	MARCH '01
ESLA-SAN JOSE DEL MONTE BULACAN	APRIL '01
ESLA-MARIKINA II	MAY '01
ESLA-LUCENA CITY	JUNE '01
ESLA-LAS PIÑAS	JULY '01
ESLA-BALANGA BATAAN	JULY '01

ESLA 49TH BRANCH

The 49th branch of Emilio S. Lim Appliances (ESLA)—opened recently at Recar Commercial Complex Inc., J.P. Rizal, Zulueta St., Brgy. Poblacion, Balanga City, Bataan. Shown during the ribbon cutting ceremony were (from left) Roberto R. Lim, CEO; Malou Beltran Salanguit, daughter of building owner; Emilio S. Lim, Esla president; wife Emma, and Alberto R. Lim, COO.



Direct-Cooling
1-Door Refrigerator
SJ-22T
211-liter capacity
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Soon available

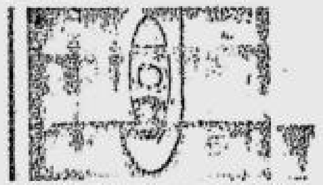
The Sharp Direct Cooling Fridge. Equipped with the new Duct Air Flow System, it distributes cool air evenly to keep food fresh no matter which shelf it's on. For the demands of the growing family, this is one ref that sure knows how to keep it's cool all over.

• 100°C heat resistant top table • Spacious 15-liter vegetable compartment • Large 26-liter capacity freezer • 100% CFC-free

Always Ahead. Always Sharp.

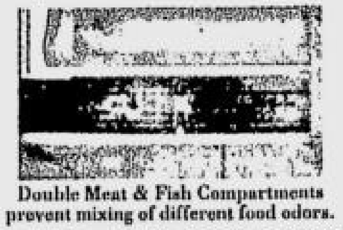
Visit or call our showroom at Level 5 SM Megamall B, tel. nos. 634-8147 to 48 or visit our website at: www.sharp.ph.

Innovative features:



Duct Air flow System distributes cold air evenly.

Revolutionary narrow walls allow for a compact size without loss of storage space.



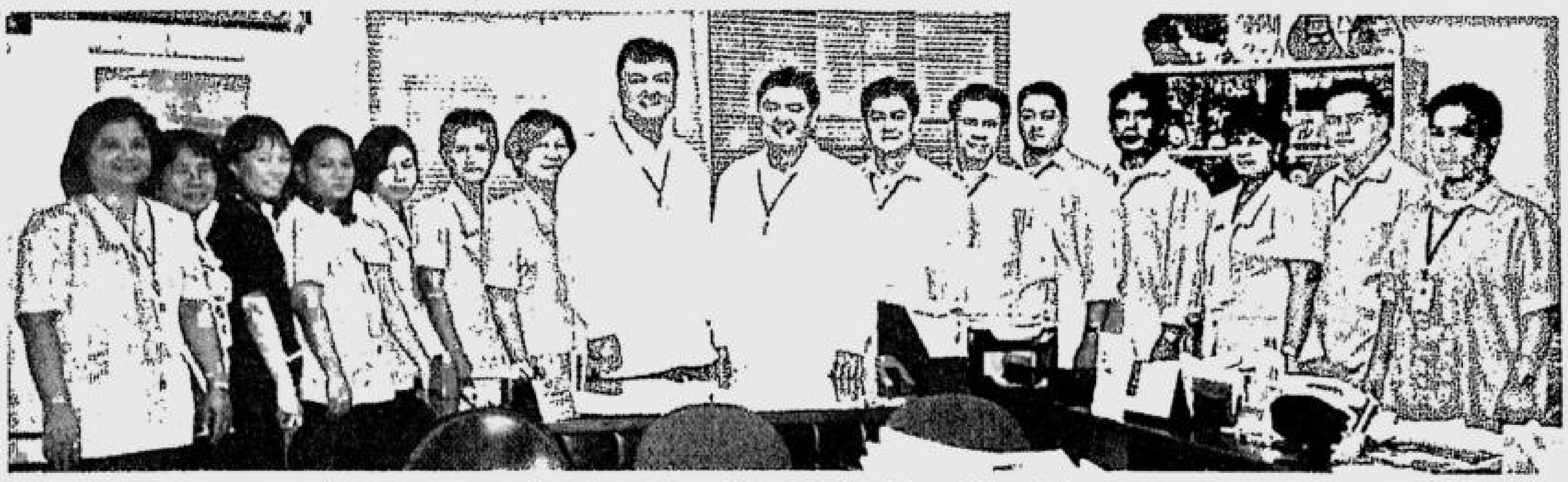
Double Meat & Fish Compartments prevent mixing of different food odors.

ALWAYS THE LOWER PRICE
NOW WITH 49 BRANCHES TO SERVE YOU
34th ESLA Anniversary Sale!
THE FASTEST GROWING APPLIANCE NETWORK

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OFFER!
FREE T-shirt for cash buyers
FREE travelling bag for regular installment buyers
FREE flat iron for repeat installment buyers

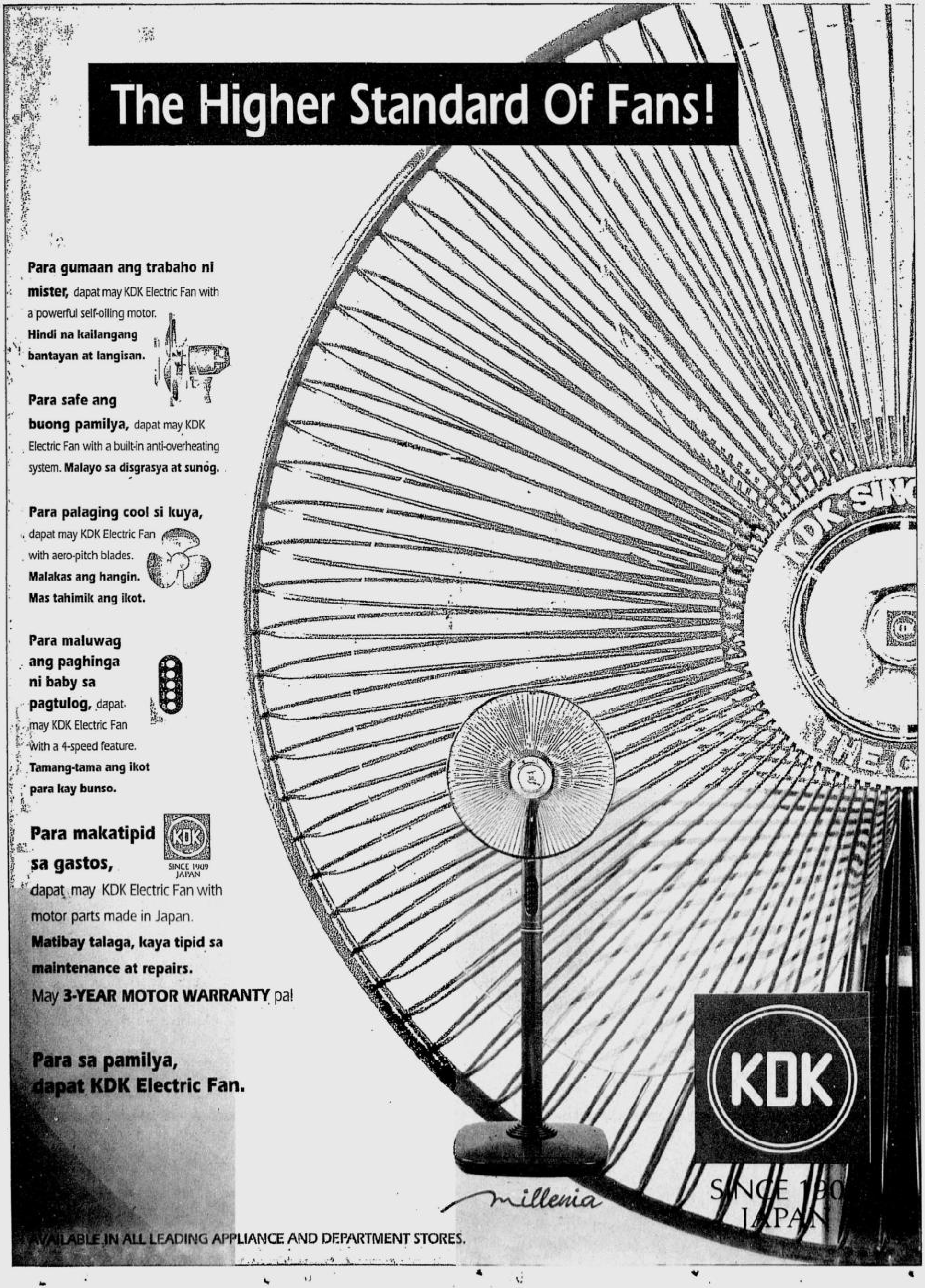
PROMO EXTENDED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

COMBO DEAL PROMO
NO CASH OUT STILL AVAILABLE!
NO DEPOSIT NEEDED
LAST PAYMENT FREE!
For Repeat Customers: Last 2 Payments FREE!
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



ESLA operation managers and internal auditors with Roberto 'Jimmy' Lim, CEO (ninth from left) and Albert R. Lim, COO (eighth from left). From left are Patricia Landicho, Erlinda Madriaga, Angeli Bermio, Leonida Gawat, Marissa Navales, Asuncion Gawat, Rosita Pascua, internal auditors; Teofilo Fernandez, Exequiel Navarro Jr., Deogracia Abella, Marlon Bordeos, Ellen Figueroa, Glen Leyva, and Romeo Escaro Jr., operation managers.

ESLA officers with Roberto 'Jimmy' Lim, CEO (center). From left are Andylito Samartino, service manager; Ma. Theresa Ulanday, supplies head; Jeannie O. Moldes, ads and promo head; Verona Viajar, HRD head; Cristina Abeleda, secretary to the GM; Loyolita Aquilino, disbursing officer; Florencia Panaligan, accounts payable officer; and Marriane Natalie A. Montero, purchasing manager.


The Higher Standard Of Fans!

Para gumaan ang trabaho ni mister, dapat may KDK Electric Fan with a powerful self-oiling motor. **Hindi na kailangang bantayan at langisan.**

Para safe ang buong pamilya, dapat may KDK Electric Fan with a built-in anti-overheating system. **Malayo sa disgrasya at sunog.**

Para palaging cool si kuya, dapat may KDK Electric Fan with aero-pitch blades. **Malakas ang hangin. Mas tahimik ang ikot.**

Para maluwag ang paghinga ni baby sa pagtulog, dapat may KDK Electric Fan with a 4-speed feature. **Tamang-tama ang ikot para kay bunso.**

Para makatipid sa gastos, dapat may KDK Electric Fan with motor parts made in Japan. **Matibay talaga, kaya tipid sa maintenance at repairs.** May **3-YEAR MOTOR WARRANTY** pa!

Para sa pamilya, dapat KDK Electric Fan.

AVAILABLE IN ALL LEADING APPLIANCE AND DEPARTMENT STORES.

Esla believes in its people

EMILIO S. Lim Appliances (Esla) has been associated with low-priced appliances and the pioneer in easy installment plans. Through the years, it has helped its customers mostly from the *masa* to acquire their own appliances.

Over the years, the company has also been consistent in instilling virtues to its employees, and is aware of the critical role it is playing in their personal and professional development and in the pursuit of their dreams.

Roberto R. Lim, Esla's general manager, hopes Esla employees would become better persons someday.

In motivating them, he says that Esla has been generous in giving benefits to its employees.

"I would say more than 50 percent of our operating expenses goes to salaries. The company is really passing a lot to our employees," he emphasizes.

In addition to monthly salaries, Esla includes in its benefits package incentives based on sales, bonuses, and health care and life insurance plans. It also offers salary and appliance loans to its employees.

Lim is also currently involved with Marriage Encounter. He encourages his employees to attend its weekend meetings for them to get a better view of their family life.

In dealing with customers, he says, "I want them to honor what they have committed to clients and listen to their complaints, to treat every customer as a valued customer and each sale as their last sale. Every customer should be happy when they come out of the store," he relates.

He adds that he also wants his employees to respect everybody regardless of what social class they come from.

Virtues such as patience, respect, responsibility and dedication are what Esla employees have learned in the course of working with the company.

"Financially, with the benefits and the incentives the company is providing us, it's okay," says Marriane Natalie Montero, purchasing manager of Esla.

She says that with Esla, where she has been working for 11 years, she has learned to be responsible and to be concerned with the plight of others, especially her subordinates.

"Esla has satisfied our needs financially," echoes Linda Madriaga, Esla's internal auditor. She has been with the company for 26 years.

She says that Esla helped her in raising her 14-year-old son and in the schooling of her sister, who's now taking up nursing.

With Esla, Madriaga got to know how to deal with people with respect, a virtue which is, indeed, useful for her job as an auditor. And, in a way, Esla has given her some tips on how to run a business.

"I always have to be patient," says Ireneo Juarez, 31, a collector from Esla's Cubao branch. He relates that he's always in contact with different kinds of people everyday. Patience is truly needed.

Juarez, 31, admits his work has taught him a lot of ideas—ideas that have become a part of him.

For Rico Mendez, branch manager of Esla's San Fernando, Pampanga branch, Esla has aided him in discovering his sales talent. He is a nursing graduate. Being branch manager, he is now occupying a position far from his background.

He also learned to inspire his people to pursue higher goals.

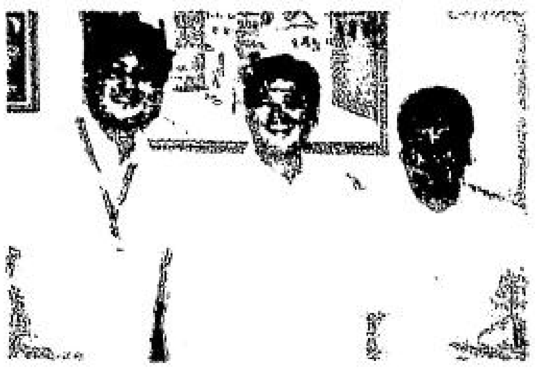
"I got to make a lot of friends in the company," says Marilyn Etabis, accounting clerk of Esla's Makati branch.

She says she has learned to value personal relationships and deal with people properly. She is involved with suppliers' and employees' payroll.

Employees also have dreams for their company. Mendez wishes that they set up a cooperative for Esla employees someday.

"The cooperative, in a way, would help us especially in times of need," he adds.

ESLA accountants with Roberto 'Jimmy' Lim, CEO (center). From left are Riezel Buo, Jennifer Solanoy, Nelia Maghibon, accountants; Ma. Luisa Selorio, chief accountant; Rebecca Audencial and Marilou Tolibas, accountants.



ESLA legal counsel lawyer Teodorico P. Fernandez (right) together with Esla COO Albert Lim (left) and CEO Roberto R. Lim (center).

Pioneering appliance store . . .

(From page F1)

complaints. The hotline is Esla's assurance of quality products and services.

Rapid expansion

Esla had seven branches up until 1993. When the younger Lim took over in 1994, he initiated the opening up of new branches.

Rapid expansion followed. There was even a time between August 1996 and December 1997 when Esla opened 17 new branches. A branch was opened every month.

Esla now has 49 branches. Six of them—Fairview II, San Jose del Monte, Marikina II, Lucena City, Las Piñas and Balanga—opened just this year.

"There was a saying that you had to go to Manila to get the best prices. Seven years ago that would have been the case. Because of Esla's standard prices, people can now avail of Manila prices in their own towns," Lim says.

Lim adds that the company has concentrated its expansion little by little outside of Metro Manila.

"We saw the trend. People were leaving Metro Manila because of the high cost of living. We decided to put up branches in Cavite and Bulacan to reach out to residents there. Before we knew it we had stretched our branch network up north to Pampanga and Bataan and to as far South as Laguna," relates Lim.

Lim says Esla has already covered all of Cavite and Laguna towns.

"Luzon is such a big market, there are still many areas to cover," he says.

The company's goal is to cover all of Luzon in five years' time and to expand to the provinces where there's also less competition.

When asked how the company was coping with the credit card craze and the installment plans these cards offered, Lim said, "the credit card is something that we have to accept. We don't look at it now as competition. To complement our business strategy, we also began accepting credit cards," he adds.

Despite the challenges, Esla grew 10 percent in sales in 2000.

"We're expecting an increase in sales of 20 percent this year, but with our country's present economic situation, even if we only achieve a 15-percent growth, I'll be more than happy," Lim says.

For the past three years, Esla has been consistently in the top 10 among appliance dealers in the country.

"I would like our customers to think of Esla as a byword for appliances. Whenever they need appliances, they know where to go," Lim says of his dreams for the company.

For this year, as part of its anniversary festivity that runs until the end of the month, a bagful of gratitude awaits Esla customers.

Esla is giving away T-shirts, traveling bags and flat irons for free for all cash buyers and all regular customers who buy on installment.

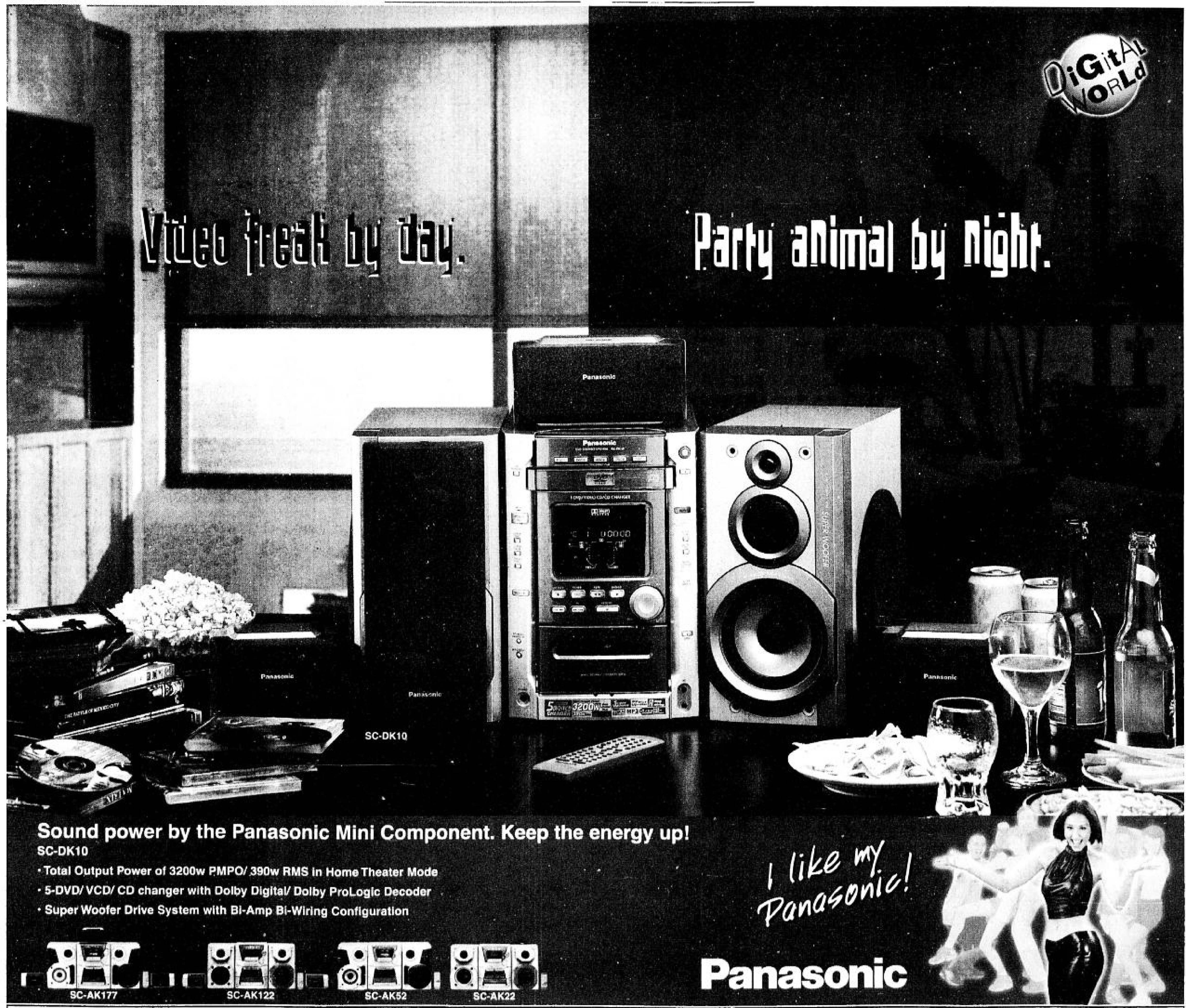
That's not all. There's still the no-downpayment promo, where the last installment is free for regular customers, and the last two installments free for repeat clients. Buyers can also avail of an extended warranty of up to five years for a minimal fee. This is in a tie-up with the Philam Group.

Up for grabs also are discounted items for bargain-hunters with tight budgets, or for those who simply just want to save more in their purchases.

This promo started Aug. 8 with the blessing of Esla's Las Piñas branch.

Esla was established by Emilio Lim in August 1967. Its headquarters are located at Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati City.

National
National Panasonic Sales Philippines
congratulates
EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCE
on their 34th Anniversary
Panasonic



Sound power by the Panasonic Mini Component. Keep the energy up!

SC-DK10

- Total Output Power of 3200w PMPO/ 390w RMS in Home Theater Mode
- 5-DVD/ VCD/ CD changer with Dolby Digital/ Dolby ProLogic Decoder
- Super Woofer Drive System with Bi-Amp Bi-Wiring Configuration

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Get 3 VCD Movies FREE
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- Customer must present proof of purchase (sales invoice or official receipt) to dealer salesmen or customer service personnel where the Panasonic product was purchased to claim item.
- Customer can claim item up to 60 days after end of promo period.
- Promo period is from August 16 to December 31, 2001 only.

SEE PROMO STANDEE FOR DETAILS

Per DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2638 SERIES OF 2001

www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph

48TH BRANCH – LAS PIÑAS

Photo taken during the ribbon cutting ceremony. From left are Carol Lim, eldest daughter of Esla president Emilio S. Lim; Roberto R. Lim, CEO; Emma Lim, wife of Emilio S. Lim; Albert Lim, COO and Hing C. Sy, building owner.

47TH BRANCH – LUCENA CITY

Photo taken during the ribbon cutting ceremony. From left are Roberto Lim, CEO; Emma Lim, wife of Esla president Emilio S. Lim; and Albert Lim, COO.

46TH BRANCH – MARIKINA CITY

Photo taken during the ribbon cutting ceremony shows (from left) Roberto R. Lim, CEO; Hon. Marideth Carlos Fernando, Marikina City mayor; Emma Lim, Esla president Emilio S. Lim, and Albert R. Lim, COO.

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

ESLA EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES

On its 34th Year Anniversary

From

Marusi

Maker of Quality Home Appliances.

JMS- [illegible] Philippines Corp. [illegible] St. Sta. Ana Manila Tel: [illegible]

45TH BRANCH – SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

Photo taken during the ribbon cutting ceremony shows (from left) Robert R. Lim, CEO; Dalisay Giron and Conrado Giron, land owner; Albert R. Lim, COO, and Emma Lim.

44TH BRANCH – FAIRVIEW

Photo taken during the ribbon cutting ceremony shows (from left) Fr. Lucas Centeno, officiating priest; Emma Lim; Emilio S. Lim, president; and Roberto R. Lim, CEO.

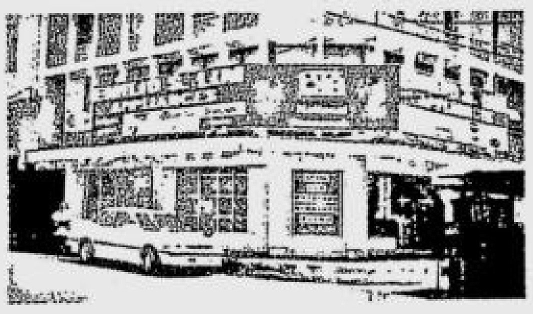
ADDITIONAL 7 BRANCHES OPENED

ESLA-BALANGA, BATAAN

Recar Commercial Complex, Inc.,
J.P.Rizal Zulueta St.,
Brgy. Poblacion,
Balanga City, Bataan
(August 15, 2001)

ESLA-LAS PIÑAS

#404 Real St., Talon,
Las Piñas City
(August 8, 2001)



ESLA-LUCENA CITY

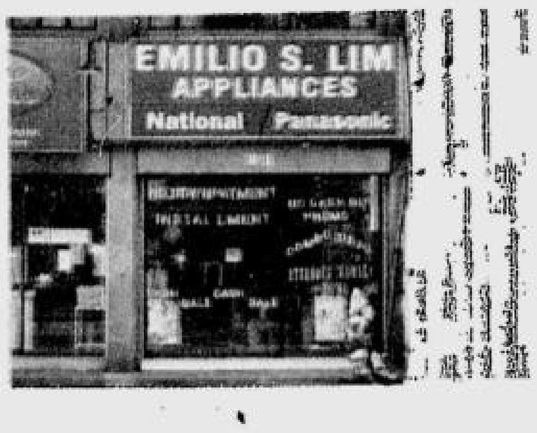
Sangalang Bldg.,
Juarez cor. Merchant St., Lucena City
(June 20, 2001)

ESLA-MARIKINA II

#37 Sumulong Hi-way, Sto Niño,
Marikina City
(May 25, 2001)

ESLA-SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

Dalisay Bldg. #200
Tungkong Mangga,
San Jose Del Monte,
Bulacan
(April 18, 2001)



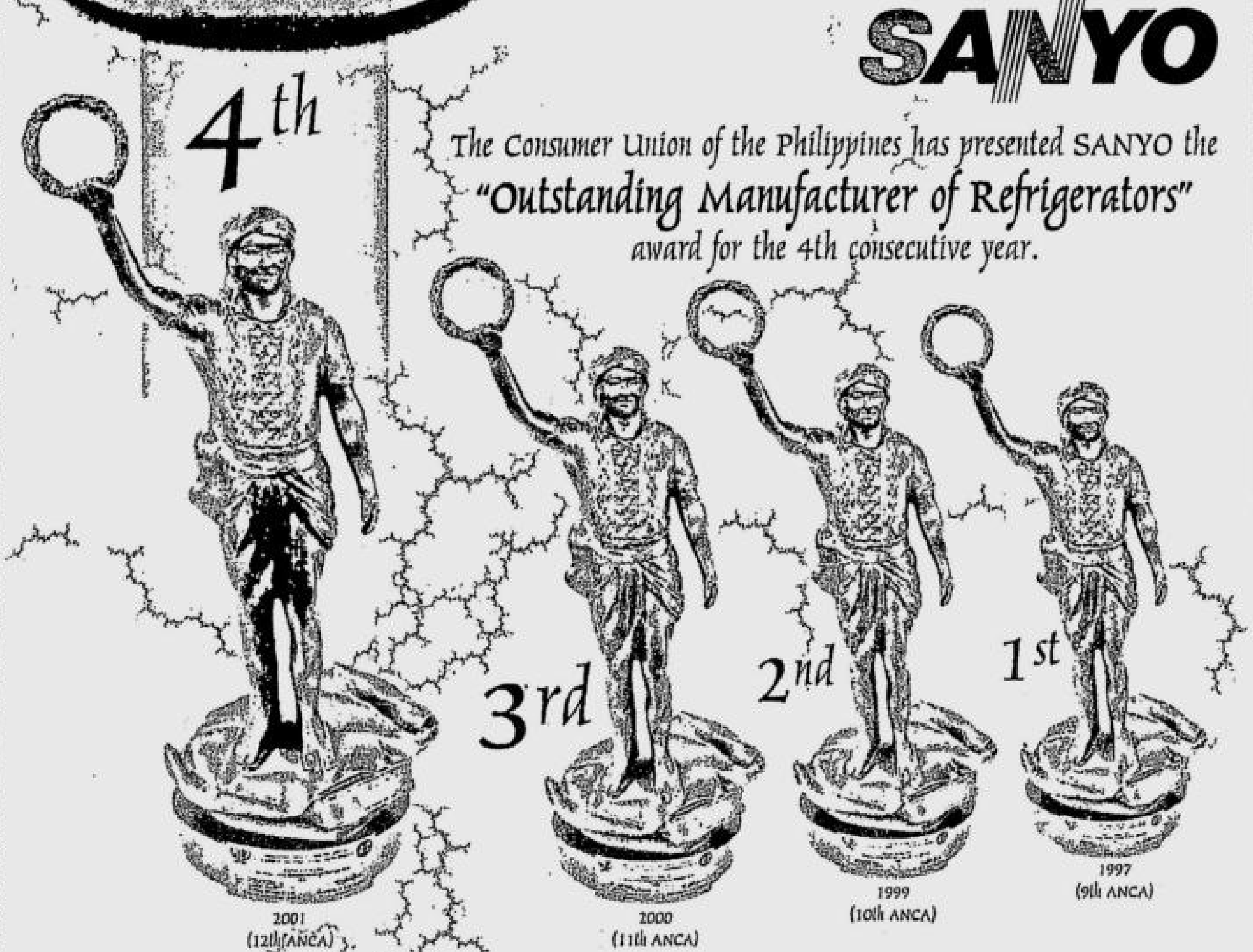
ESLA-FAIRVIEW II

LF Bldg. Unit 31-H
Block 31 lt.13,
Fairview Ave., cor
Camaro St., Q.C.
(March 26, 2001)

The Pursuit of Quality & Excellence

SANYO

The Consumer Union of the Philippines has presented SANYO the "Outstanding Manufacturer of Refrigerators" award for the 4th consecutive year.



SANYO REFRIGERATOR ADVANTAGES

COMPLETE LINE UP 75 L (2.7 cu. ft.) ~ 625 L (22 cu. ft.) to suit customers' needs

HIGH EEF Energy Efficiency Factor equals lower electricity consumption and lower running cost

IMPORTED SANYO COMPRESSORS Fully imported compressors ensure excellent quality and reliability

DEFROST SYSTEM Widest choice of Manual, Semi-Automatic, and Fully-Automatic

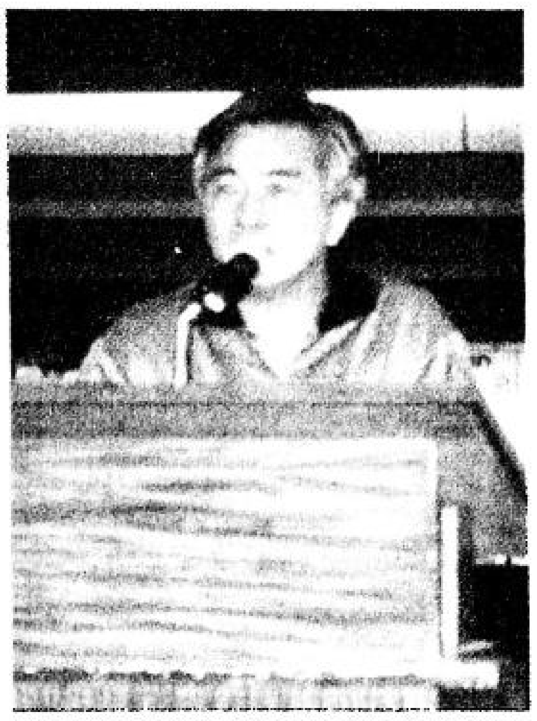
LOCK & KEY Built-in lock & key, a unique feature among its class

Visit us at: www.sanyophilippines.com

Bureau of Product Standards
100% CFC FREE
CERTIFIED Product Quality

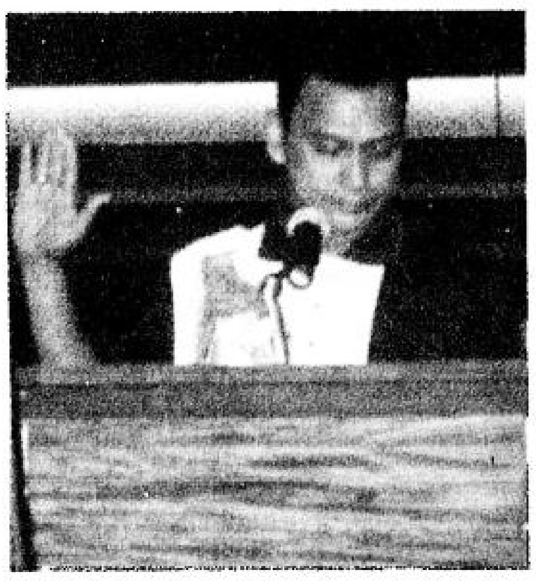
THE 3rd Esla (Emilio S. Lim Appliances) Invitational Bowling Tournament opened August 16, 2000 at Green Valley Country Club, Pasig City. Photo shows (from left) Emilio S. Lim, Esla president; Joe Noche, National Panasonic Phils. service manager and Steve Hontiveros, Green Valley Country Club president performing the ceremonial roll. The participating teams are Ascop Inc. (Aiwa), Chunlan, Concepcion Carrier Air Conditioning (CCAC), Concepcion Appliance Sales Corp. (CASC), Samsung, Sharp, Sanyo, JVC, LG Collins, National/Panasonic, Marusi, Philips Electronics and Fedders Koppel.

ESLA president Emilio S. Lim delivers his welcome address during the 3rd Esla Invitational Bowling Tournament.

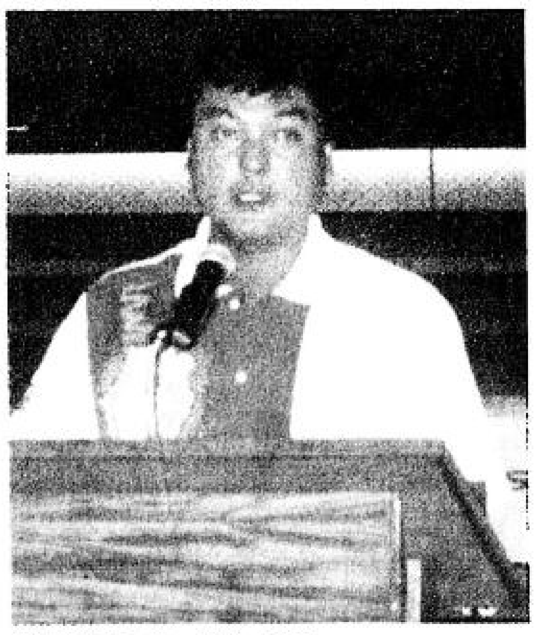


STEVE Hontiveros, GVCC president, guest speaker of 3rd Esla Invitational Bowling Tournament.

JOE Noche, National Panasonic Phils. service manager, declares the opening of 3rd Esla Invitational Bowling Tournament.



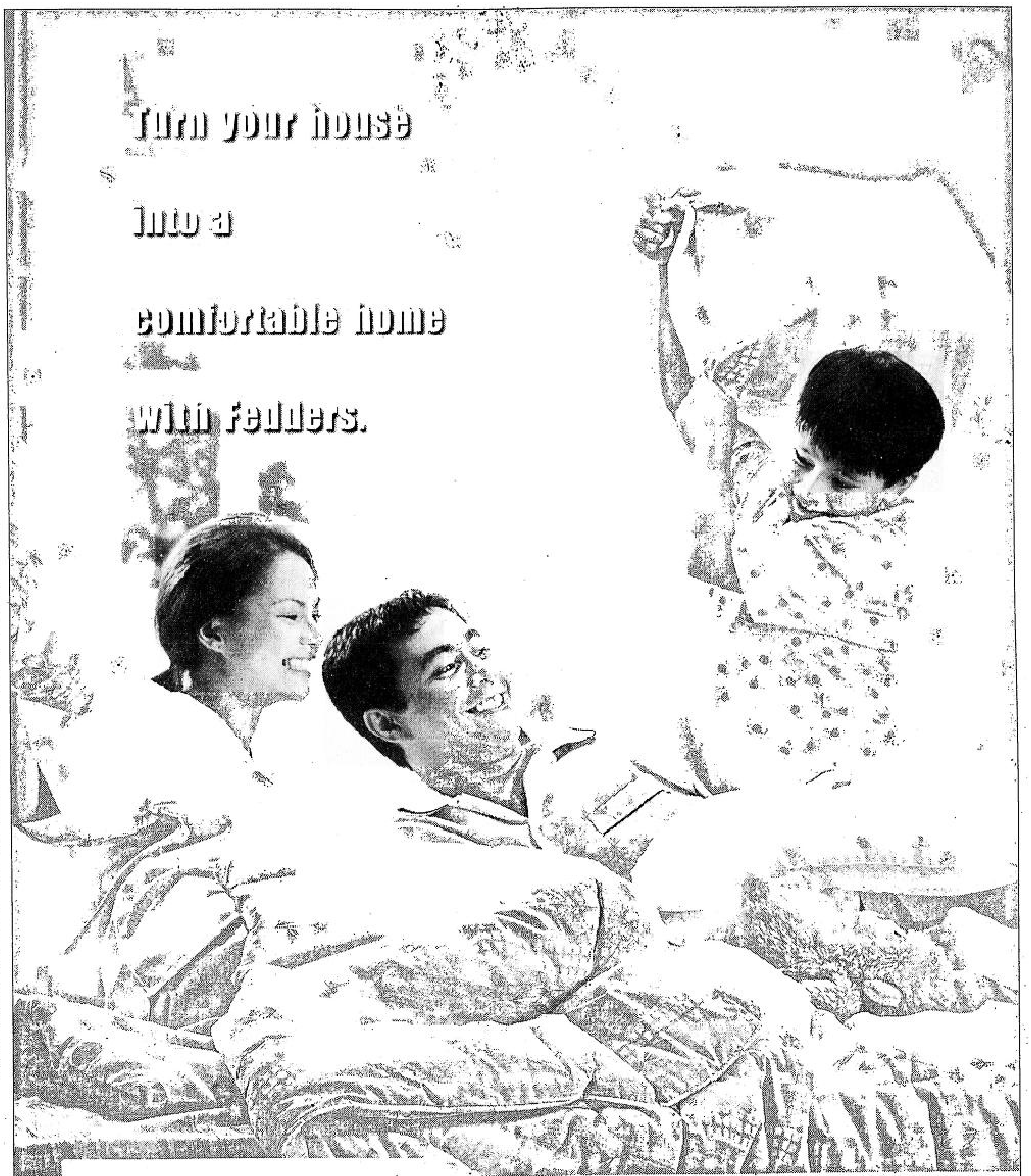
RESTY Sanchez, NPP service technician, delivers the oath of sportsmanship.

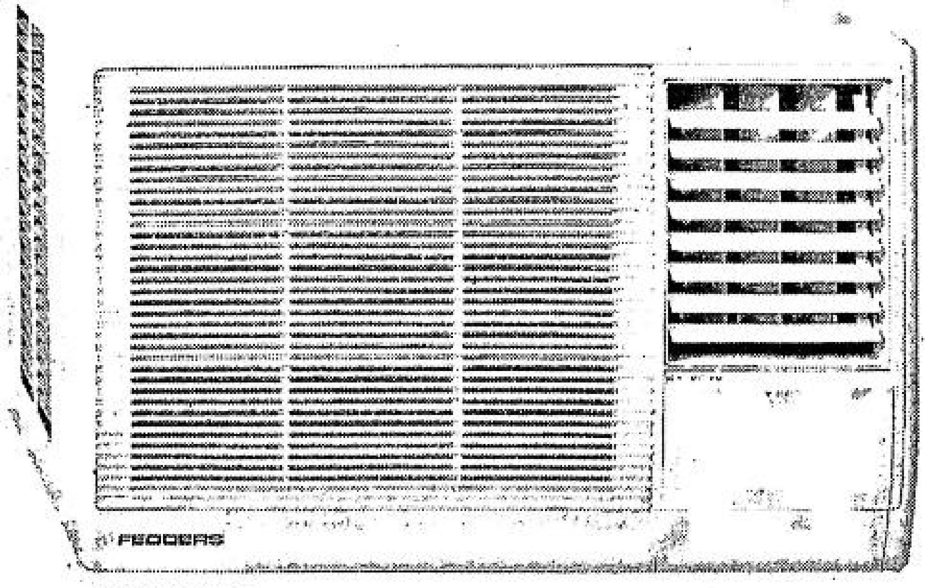


ALBERT R. Lim, Esla COO

ROBERTO R. Lim, Esla CEO

Rediscover the one you love!
Call: Jimmy ♡ Jinky Lim
Tel.: 729-6214 (Look for Tina)
A Weekend of Discovery... A Lifetime of Love.
Courtesy of Emilio S. Lim Appliances
ANNOUNCEMENT
WME COUPLES, PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS
JOIN US IN OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
ON NOV. 16 - 18, 2001 IN CEBU





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With Fedders, spending time with your family becomes a wonderful experience. The Fedders Window Air Conditioner has a specially designed grooved copper tube for maximum cooling and comfort. It also has a quiet and efficient compressor, a slide-out chassis for easy installation, and a rust-resistant cabinet for trouble-free maintenance.

For years, Fedders has been keeping homes cool and comfortable in over 50 countries worldwide. In fact, it is the only air conditioner that comes with a seven-year warranty in the Philippines. Because your family's comfort comes first, turn to Fedders, a world leader in air treatment products.

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CAGAYAN DE ORO: Moreno Bldg., Gusa, National Highway, Cagayan de Oro City • Tel. No.: (088) 855-1357 • Fax No.: (088) 855-3085

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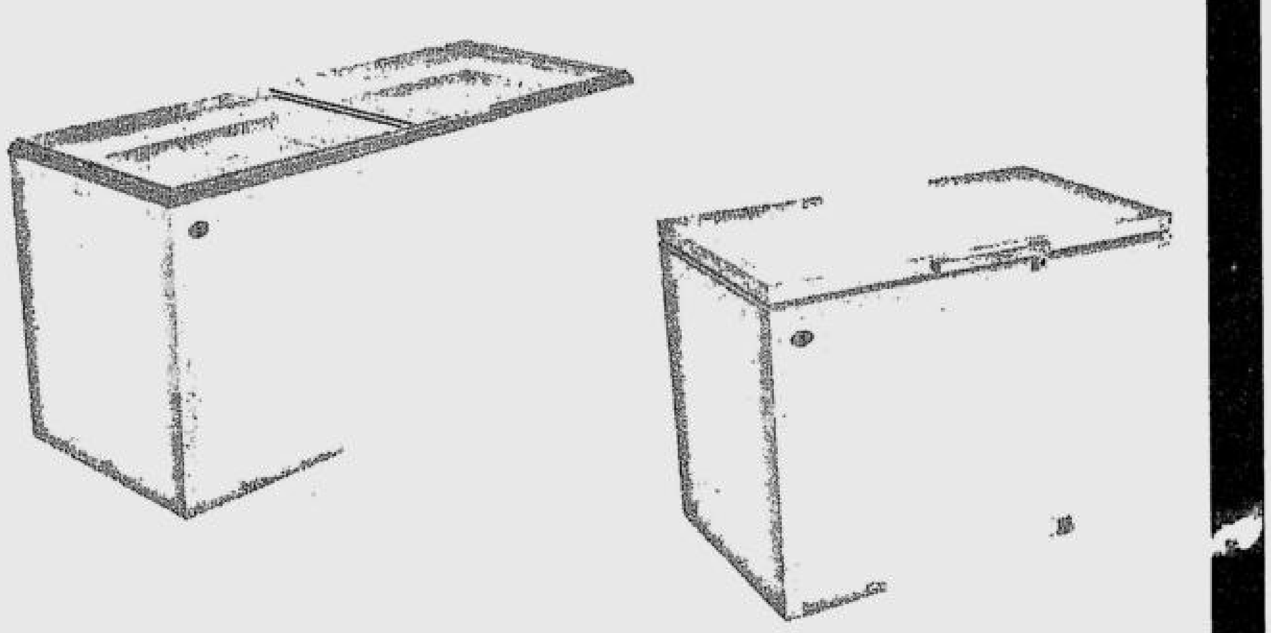
Congratulations **Emilio S. Lim Appliances**
on your 34th Anniversary!

ANA Chest Freezer

Chest Freezer at its best

ANA Chest Freezers incorporate all the best features of the chest freezers

The Chest Freezer used for commercial operations by such institutions like Monterey, Magnolia Chicken, Campo Carne Presto Ice Cream, Swissmiss Ice Cream, Arce Dairy Pampanga's Best, Farm's Best, Andok's and Quickly is now being made available to you!



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Esla suppliers

ESLA suppliers at Lim's farm.

LAS PIÑAS BLESSING. The Lim family together with Ellen Figueroa (OM) (fourth from left) and Fr. Lucas Centeno, officiating priest (fifth from left) during the 48th branch blessing in Las Piñas City.

ESLA suppliers together with the Lim family

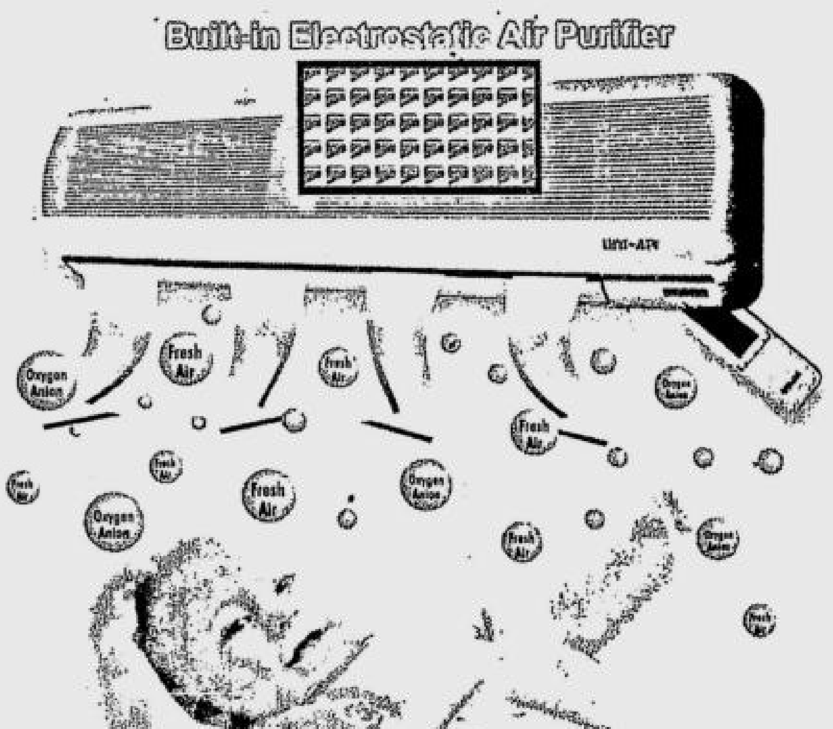
AVAIL OF OUR *FREE INSTALLATION PROMO! FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF SPLIT-TYPE (FOR METRO MANILA ONLY)

Clean, Cool, Quality Air

UNI~AIR SPLIT-TYPE AIR CONDITIONER

It's the airconditioner which has high cooling system and unique cooling added feature, the electrostatic air purifier that decomposes pollutant effectively. The result - 99.99 % clean, cool, quality air which is good for your health especially those with allergies and asthma.

Built-in Electrostatic Air Purifier



The Electrostatic Air Purifier
Only from UNI~AIR

ELECTRIFY TO DECOMPOSE
Absorbing the moldiness germ up to 0.0001 mm, cigarette smoke, wake

ABSORB AND SIFT
Attaching the pollutant with negative electricity to the metal

Pollutants such as active odor, cigarette smoke, passive smog, polluted air, pollens, moldiness, germs, etc.

Finally the air with oxygen anion is released and filled in the room. The air quality is improved

Split Type Models	hp ratings	Before	NOW
U-I000NSECW	1.0hp	31,500	29,000
U-I260NSECW	1.5hp	34,200	31,500
U-I800NSECW	2.0hp	41,700	39,500
U-2240NSECW	2.5hp	44,500	42,500
Multi-Split Type Models			
U-2000NSECW	1-1hp	63,150	58,000
U-2800NSECW	1-1hp 1-2hp	73,850	68,500

* Free installation inclusive of the first 3 meters (10 feet) of refrigerant pipings. Exclusive of the following: (1)Mounting bracket; (2)Circuit breaker

Customer Care 563-0868

FOR PRODUCT DEMO PLEASE VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT 2284 PRES. QUIRINO AVE. PACO MLA.

UNI~AIR®
AIR CONDITIONERS
For Clean, Cool, Quality Air

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING APPLIANCE DEALERS AND EXCLUSIVE SERVICE CENTERS

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 3328 SERIES OF 2000

There's a killer in the house

AIR POLLUTION is a national health threat. And indoor air pollution is considered often more polluted than outdoor air. These situations are found in homes, offices, schools and all types of buildings that are insulated or tightly sealed. In this set up, there is little or no air exchange, only indoor air is re-circulated. Hence, pollutants are trapped inside and goes with the air we breathe. What aggravates things is that we spend a great deal of time indoors.

Most airborne pollutants such as smoke, bacteria, mold and virus spores pose great risks to our health. These could cause allergies, respiratory and eye infections, asthma attacks, fatigue and depression. Worse, under severe conditions, pollutants can result to injury and even death.

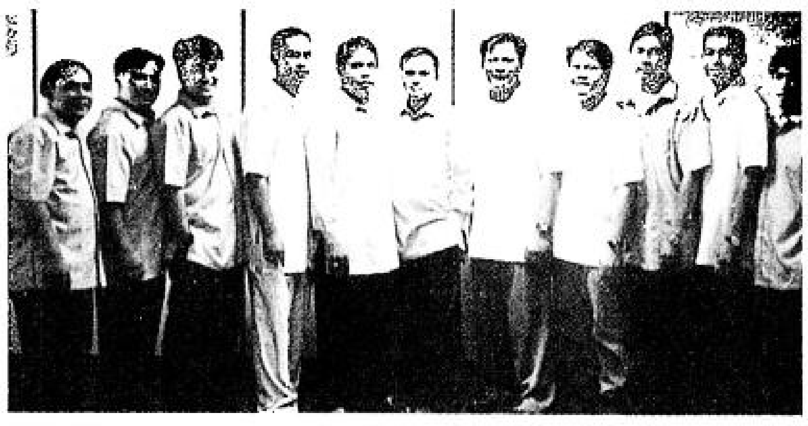
Clean indoor air now. Do your part—stop smoking, dispose of wastes properly, and keep clean surroundings.

Uni-Air has long been calling for a pollution-free air. It was the first to come up with the "split type" air conditioner, which has an electrostatic air purifier that can filter pollutants such as smoke, active odor and molds by absorbing into a needle-electrified area and put negative electricity into the waste air. This negatively charged air then attaches to the metal electrostatic dust absorber, which is positively charged. Then, air with oxygen anions (negative ions which neutralize positive ions carrying pollutants) is released. The result is 99.99 percent clean, cool, quality air—only from Uni-Air.

Esla store managers

CUBAO group managers

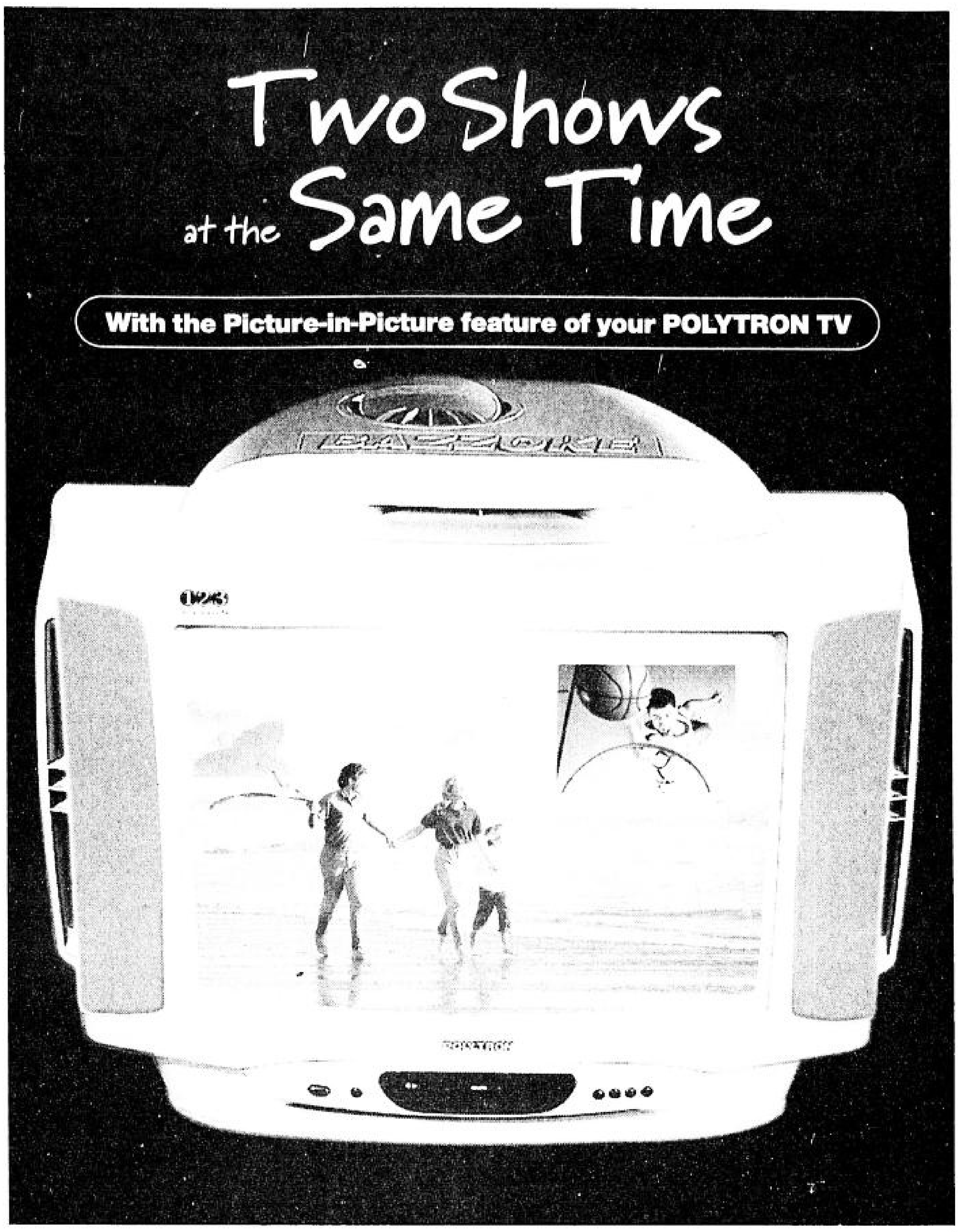
CALOOCAN group managers



MAKATI group managers

MARIKINA group managers

PA



Two Shows at the Same Time

With the Picture-in-Picture feature of your POLYTRON TV

Keep track of two different shows at the same time without switching channels. Watch them on the same screen with **POLYTRON 21PP123, the Picture-in-Picture TV.**

You can also get other great features such as the Built-in Active Subwoofers, AV Stereo and MultiSystem. With all that value for your money, Polytron is indeed your QualiTV!

Now comes in New Color!

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POLYTRON Your QualiTV!

Amoy kulob damit mo!

Washing laundry can be torture this rainy season. You may end up wearing damp-smelling clothes. Smell clean with DAEWOO twin-tub washing machine with a built-in spin dryer that helps dry clothes faster and more effectively. Its pure Polypropylene body is even guaranteed to outlast all weather conditions.

ONLY FROM DAEWOO THE FIRST IN POLYPROPYLENE ENGINEERING
100% RUST FREE Non-metal BODY!

- Washing capacities: 3.5 kg., 4.2 kg., 5 kg., 6.8 kg.
- Also available: Fully automatic at 7 kg. and 7.5 kg.

100% Pure Polypropylene* body Knock on it and see for yourself!

Built-in Spin Dryer w/ separate motor

Powerful Washing Cycle

Forget the outdated, rust-prone, and washer-only metal washing machines! Make that switch, to DAEWOO twin-tub washing machine!

* Polypropylene- durable synthetic, non-metal resin guaranteed against rust and corrosion.

DAEWOO ELECTRONICS
Tried and Tested by REAL PEOPLE

EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES BRANCHES

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Salle University)
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Fairview, Quezon City
427-5514, 427-5845

FAIRVIEW II
LF Bldg. Unit 31-H Block 31
lt.13, F-view Ave., cor Camaro
St., F-view Q.C.
427-0916

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Mariano Alvarez, Cavite
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Piñas City
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Quezon City
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Parañaque Metro Manila
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PARAÑAQUE ,SUCAT
#8219 Unit B Permarc
Bldg.Dr.A.Santos, Ave., San
Isidro Sucat Parañaque
825-1352

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Theater Bldg., Dr. Sixto Ave.,
Pasig City
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PASIG II
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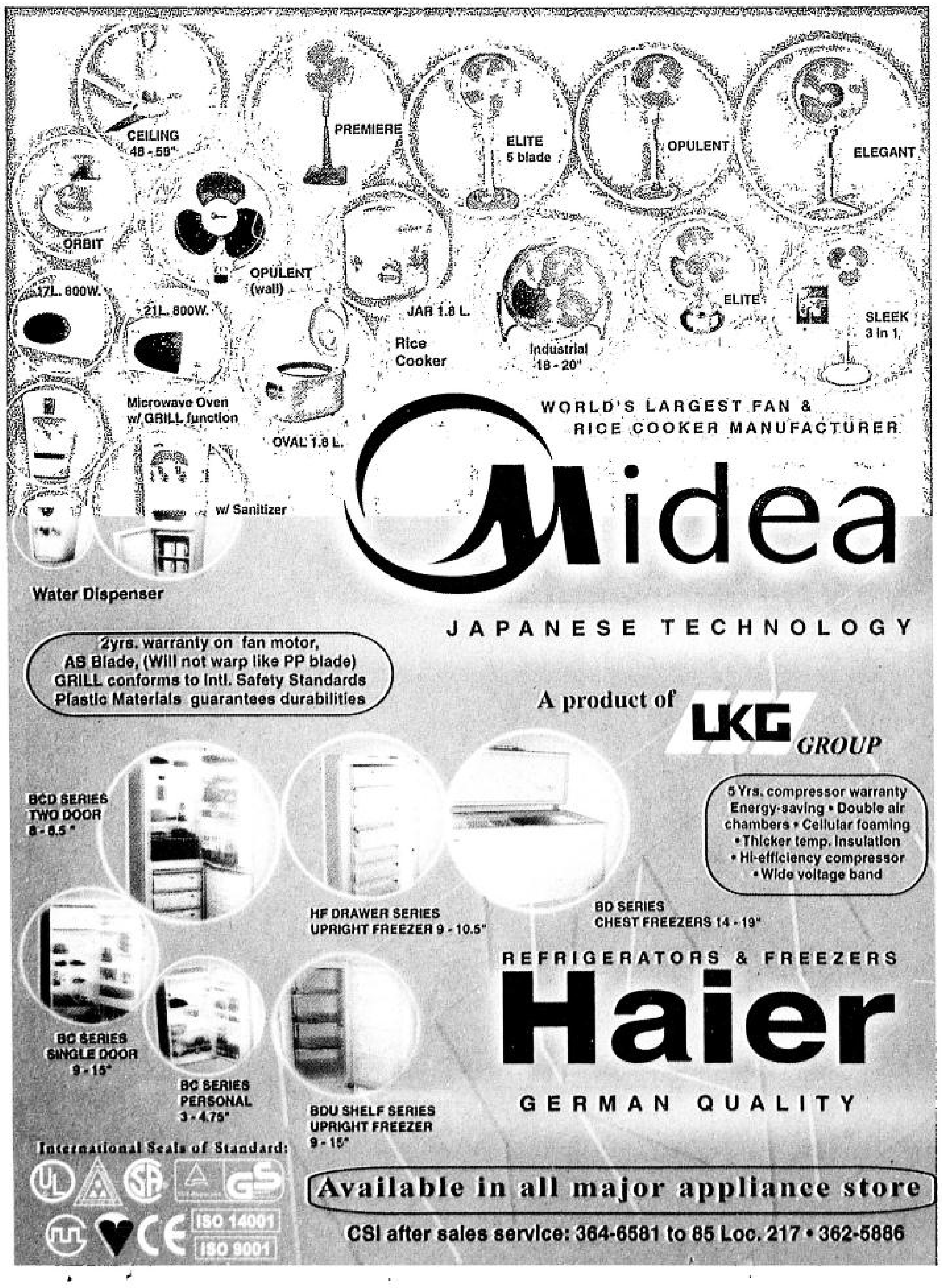

NIIT scholars in the Philippines

NIIT, a world leader in IT education and training, announced the launch of its full year e-scholarships for the Honors Diploma in e-technology. These scholarships cover fee waivers of 100 percent, 75 percent, 50 percent or 25 percent. These scholarships are open to high school students who have graduated in 2000 or 2001.

The scholarships are meant to encourage high school graduates with excellent results in their senior year and also those who are financially constrained but meritorious to take up a career in IT or an IT-related industry. The scholarships will be awarded based on results of a nationwide written exam and interview. For more details write to info@niit.com.ph or call any of the NIIT centers; 689-1189, 830-3000, 441-0101, 775-7001, 405-0018.

Speaking on the launch of the e-scholarships, Jay Silayan, CEO of Mindstream Inc., the local partner of NIIT and an associate company of ePLDT, said "We believe that the global opportunities for IT professionals are very promising. In line with the Philippine government's thrust in developing information technology in the country, NIIT would like to support deserving students interested in building a successful future through IT"

NIIT is one of the largest IT education institutions in the world offering its global state-of-the-art curriculum. The NIIT program is an integrated program that builds expertise in software development. The learner is given a solid grounding on software concepts, engineering and skills. It is thus designed to equip students with knowledge and skills to get a job anywhere in the world. Eligible NIIT students on completion of their diploma can also pursue higher education with partnering universities from the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

Training over 400,000 students every year worldwide with operations in over 38 countries, NIIT derives its strength from the unique synergy of being a leader in education as well as IT services. "Having worked with global giants such as IBM, World Bank, AT&T and with technology alliances with corporations such as Microsoft, Oracle, Computer Associates, Red Hat and Citrix, it gives us a preview into the technology of the future and helps build expertise in these areas ahead of anyone else," Jay added.

In the Philippines, NIIT is a premier education and training partner of Microsoft and has also been elected as founder member of the Microsoft Education Council by the top 20 universities in the country.

"NIIT launched its global curriculum in April this year and the response has been overwhelming," said Jay. "In the coming months, we are planning to launch many more new education products around newer technologies, besides investing heavily in retraining and retooling the employees. Additionally, NIIT will expand its computer education operations significantly over the next few months in order to enhance its reach among customers."

BPI PRESENTS 2001 SCHOLARS

BPI recently held a college scholarship orientation for its new batch of scholars. Present during the orientation were (seated, from left) BPI vice president and BPI Foundation executive director Roni Tapi-Merk, BPI 2001 scholars Angela Cherie Aninao, Denise Margaret Matias, Melody Abellon, Jaymie Louise Tang, (standing, from left) BPI senior vice president Jess Razon, BPI 2001 scholars Jose Raphael Flores, Marvin Apoyon, Gerwinson Turaray, Miguel Teotico, Gerard Montino and BPI Foundation manager Miguel Villa-Real. Not in photo is BPI scholar Anthony Ralph S. Calapine. Since its establishment in 1978, the BPI Foundation has instituted and continues to run successful outreach and development programs that include education via scholarships, professorial chairs, the Information Systems Study Plan and the BPI Science Awards; Micro-Enterprise Development, and basic services like medical missions and social housing, among others.

10 SMCL STUDES TRAIN IN SINGAPORE

Saint Michael's College of Laguna, a reputable non-sectarian private school based in Biñan, Laguna, gave a rousing send-off to ten of its hotel and restaurant management students who recently flew to Singapore to undergo six months of training in leading hotels. Shown are the ten Michaeleans who will be assigned in Mariott, Fullerton, Pan Pacific and other renowned hotels in Singapore (from left) Conrad Ocampo, Joan Florendo, Mary Anne Caperal, Judilyn Flores, Donalee Tenorio, Jasmin Remoquillo, Julie Ann Morales, Luningning Cansicio, Dolores Jose, and Juanito Crisostomo. With them are Dr. Leonila Cuasay, dean of students and admissions; Dr. Nelia De Guzman, dean of the college of education and liberal arts; Dr. Fara Santos, vice president for academics; Dr. Lourdes Almeda-Sese, executive vice president; Maria Linda Pio, chair of hotel and restaurant management department and Victor Manabat, dean of the college of business and information technology. SMCL's academic program for the tertiary level include accountancy, commerce, computer science, education, nursing and midwifery. This 25-year-old learning institution also offers masteral courses in education and business administration.

BITS & Clips

Cut price book sale back

OFFERING as much as 50-percent savings, Cut Price Book Sale of National Book Store is every bookworm's dream come true. From fiction to business books, from children's to inspirational books, Cut Price features over 1 million titles on sale. Helping cut prices this year is Cut Price's very own Snippets family. The snippets are a book-loving family of scissors that will put a familiar face on National Book Store's Cut Price scissor icon, which has become the book sale's signature. The Snippets will also help represent the book categories included in this year's sale. Whether it's Clipper for Children's Books or Double-O-Shaye for fiction titles, keep an eye out for these fun characters this Cut Price 2001. Cut Price Book Sale is from Aug. 24 to Sept. 16.

Singing priests concerts

THE HERMANOS y Hermanas de Zamboanga Foundation Inc., Cebu chapter, is sponsoring a concert to raise funds for the building of a home for the aged priests in Zamboanga City. Foundation chair Edgar C. Munoz said the concert will be performed by singing priests from Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu on Aug. 26 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the St. Theresa's College Auditorium in Cebu City. The singing group is called the Parakletos. Muñoz said the realization of the foundation's project will enable clergies to have a home of their own when they retire from priesthood. For more information, call (032) 340-0989 or (032) 341-0686 (Cebu City).

UST-CPT seminar

THE UNIVERSITY of Sto. Tomas–College of Physical Therapy (UST-CPT) will hold the seminar, "Teaching in the Clinics" on three consecutive Sundays – Aug. 12, 19 and 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Martin de Porres Building (Medicine) of the UST. The three-day seminar is envisioned to provide and to prepare participants with the skills needed for clinical education and its dynamic environment. Moreover, the seminar integrates principles of teaching and learning and the application in various learning activities. For more information, call UST-CPT with telephone lines 740-9713 or 731-3101 local 2280 and look for Prof. Debra Osmeña, OTRP.

Thomasite centennial confab

TO MARK the centennial of the arrival of the Thomasites, the first American teachers who came to the Philpppines aboard the US transport ship "Thomas" on Aug. 21, the American Studies Association of the Philippines (Asap) will hold an international conference on the theme, "Back to the Future: Perspectives on the Thomasite Legacy to Philippine Education." This will be held on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 24 to 25 at the Escaler Hall, Ateneo de Manila University. DECS Secretary Raul R. Roco will deliver the keynote address. For inquiries, call Annie Ilagan or Rowena Llanes at 926-3496 or 920-5301 local 7236.

Korean red ginseng investors' night

INSAM Corp., the country's exclusive distributor of Cheong Kwan Jang Korean Red Ginseng, continues its business opportunity seminar series (BOS) fpr prospective investors. It is set to accomplish its target of 100 sales outlets nationwide for the year. The next seminar shall be held at the Corregidor Room A, Century Park Sheraton Hotel on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. The move is part of the initiative to fulfill the company's mission, which is to bring at least one Korean Red Ginseng product to every Filipino family. Insam general manager Lilibeth de Jesus stressed that this could only happen with enough sales centers in the country. The seminar will focus on product knowledge and effectiveness, product line, testimonials, feasibility studies, and franchising privileges. For details, call the Insam head office at 526-0184 or 526-1860.